



Public Health Hub
BERKSHIRE EAST

Analysis of school-aged cases in Berkshire East

***Local Outbreak Engagement Board
19 October 2021***

Please note that the data included in this slide-deck are restricted and should not be included in public-facing documents.

Situational Awareness

The latest Public Health England (PHE) Situational Awareness Report shows weekly case rates across the South East region are stabilising. Four of the six Berkshire LAs have seen an increase over the last week, with two seeing a decrease.

Situational Awareness indicators from 7th to 13th October * in comparison to previous 7-day period

Area	Individuals tested per 100,000 population (7-day moving average)		Percentage individuals test positive (weekly)	
	Value	Change	Value	Change
Bracknell Forest	636.5	↑	9.7	↑
Reading	779.2	↓	8	↑
Slough	665.3	↑	9.4	↑
West Berkshire	667.4	↑	9.1	↑
Windsor and Maidenhead	818.8	↑	8.6	↑
Wokingham	885.6	↑	10.2	↑
South East	707.4	↑	8.5	↑
England	699.7	↑	8.8	↑

Situational Awareness indicators from 7th to 13th October * in comparison to previous 7-day period

Area	Cases per 100,000 population - All ages (weekly)		Cases per 100,000 population - 60+ (weekly)		Number of confirmed cases (last 7 days)	Total community outbreaks (Last 7 days)
	Value	Change	Value	Change		
Bracknell Forest	430.9	↑	168.8	↑	535	2
Reading	442.8	↑	207.6	↑	710	2
Slough	432.6	↑	169.6	↑	647	1
West Berkshire	446.2	↑	131.8	↑	707	3
Windsor and Maidenhead	461.4	↑	152.1	↓	698	2
Wokingham	619.2	↑	144.1	↑	1,077	1
South East	416.9	↑	148	↑	37,296	74
England	424	↑	188.2	↑	239,760	320

Source: PHE Regional South East Situational Awareness Reports (11th & 12th October 2021)

* Dates and figures refer to specimen date

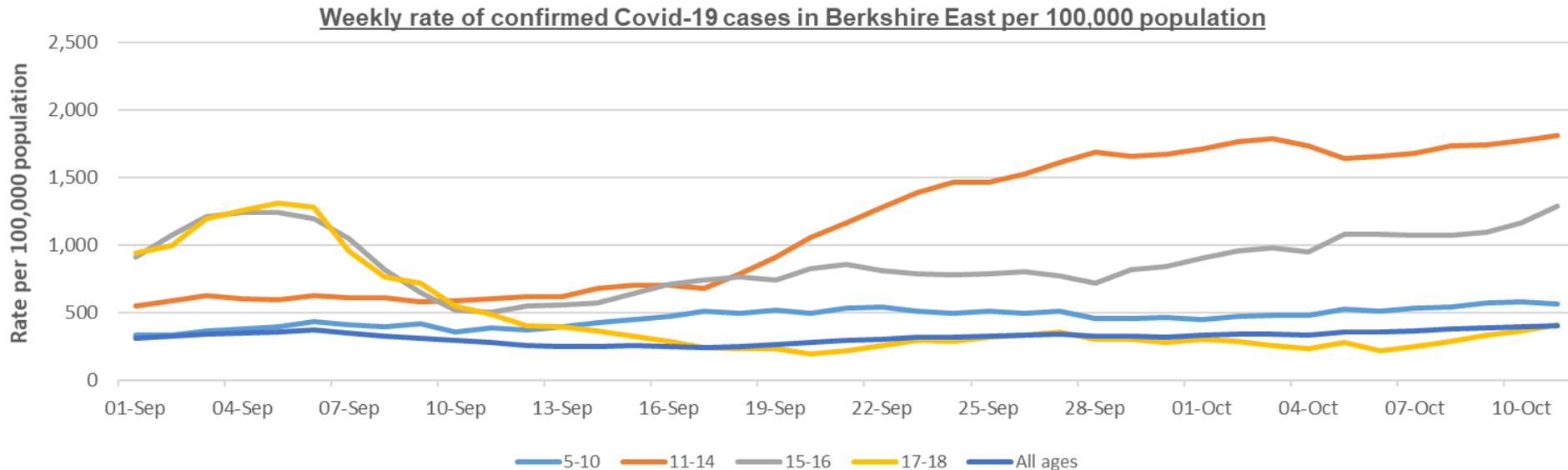
The RAG ratings shown below reflect PHE's thresholds for positivity and case rates. More information on these thresholds can be found at the end of this Briefing (slide 38).

Covid-19 case rates in school-aged children

From 1st September to 8th October, the weekly rate of Covid-19 cases in Berkshire East has increased by 22%. In this time the number of cases in school-aged children (aged 5 to 18) increased by 70%.

The school-aged rate on 8th October was 936 per 100,000 population (787 children). Incomplete data for the last few days indicates that this will go up further to approx 1,015 per 100,000 population on 11th October (853 children).

The graph below shows how the rate of Covid-19 cases has particularly increased in the 11 to 14 age group since mid-September. The 15-16 age group is also starting to show a clear increase.

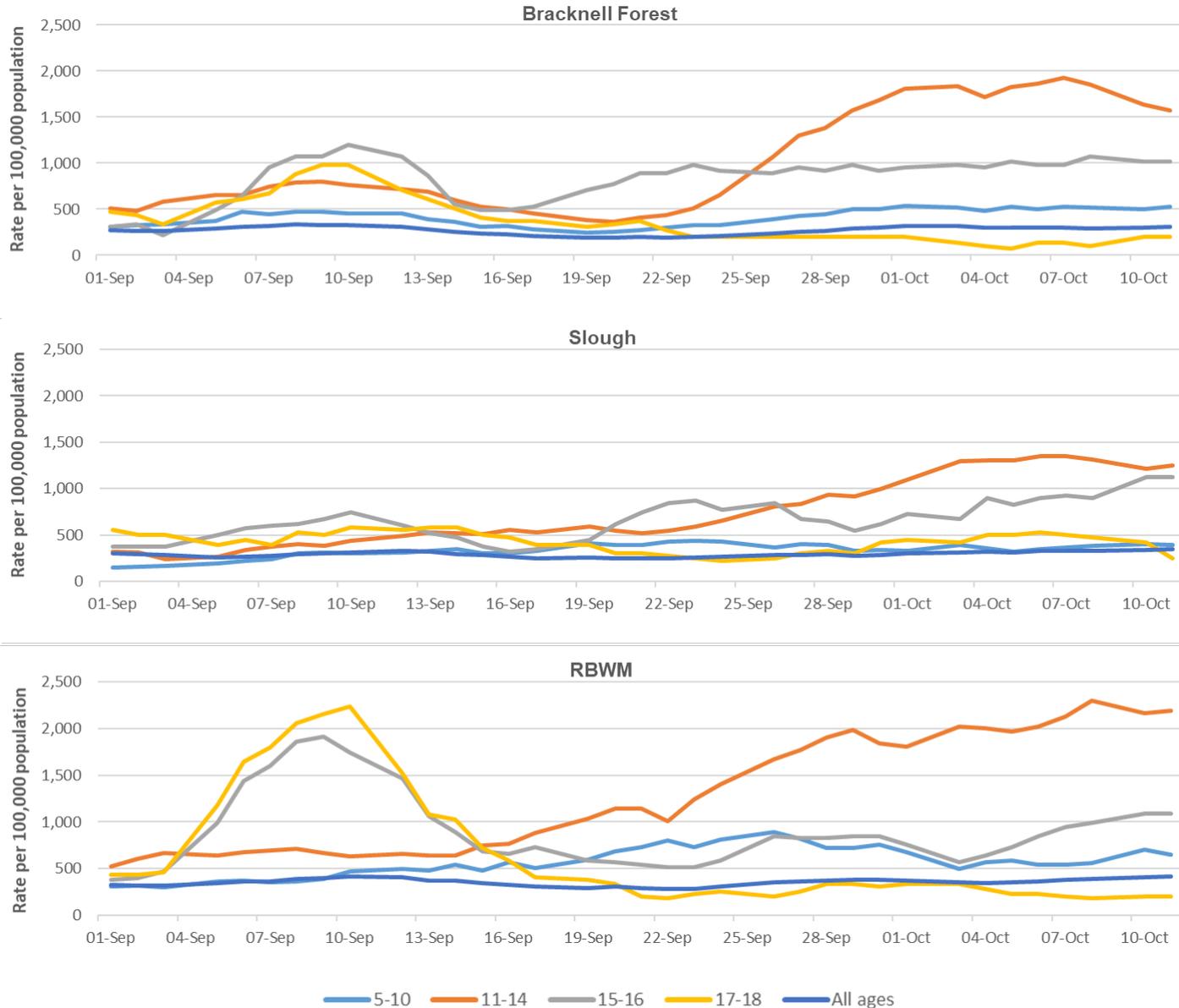


Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness Explorer: (restricted dataset)

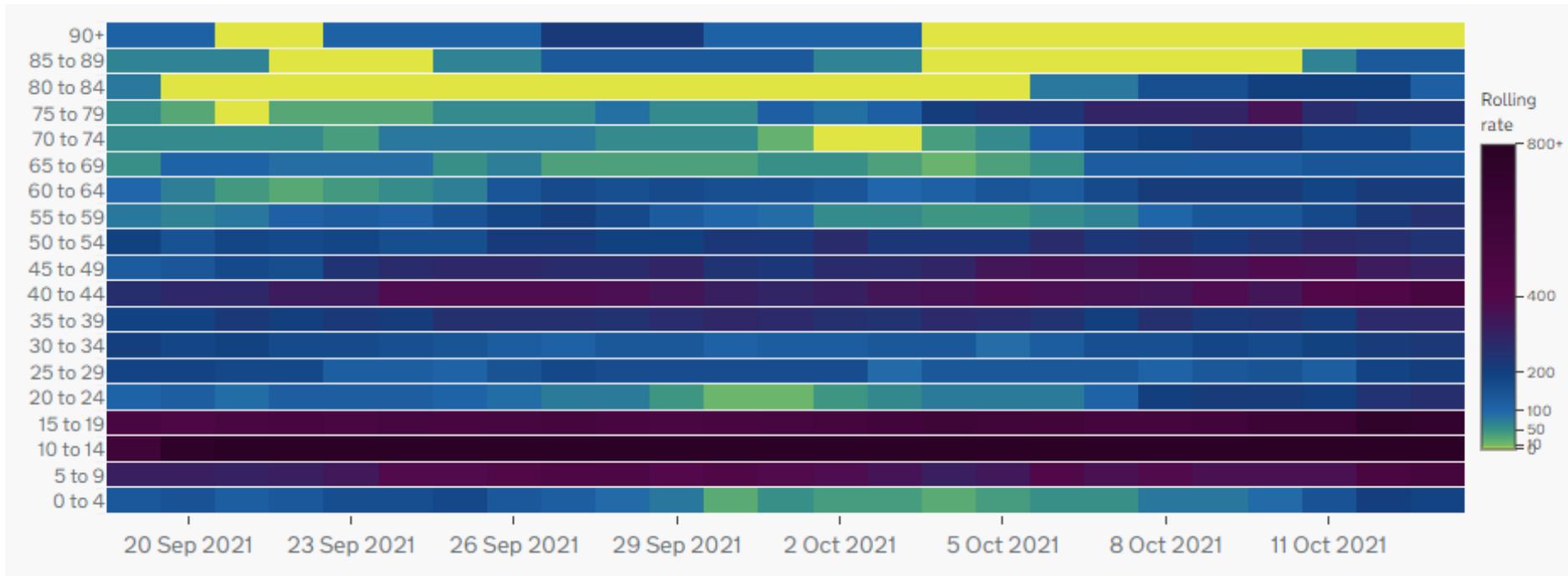
Covid-19 case rates in school-aged children

The weekly rate of cases varies across the Berkshire East LAs. While all LAs have had higher rates in the 11 to 14 age group, Slough's rates for 5 to 10 and 11 to 14 year olds have remained significantly lower than both Bracknell Forest and RBWM's since the last week of September.

Case rates in the 15 to 16 age group are similar across Berkshire East. These appear to be increasing in Slough and RBWM.



COVID-19 case rates by age



Source: Household cluster information has been taken from [Cases in Bracknell Forest | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

Recommendations of East Berks Health Protection Board

Key principles:

1. The recommendations must be proportionate to the current public health risk and disruption to education
2. The recommendations must focus on measures that will cause minimal disruption to the effective operation of schools and colleges
3. The recommendations seek to sufficiently control transmission to avoid having to introduce even more restrictive measures in the future

- All baseline measures in schools and colleges should remain the same, e.g. good ventilation, hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning regime
- The Board's recommendations are in addition to current measures available in an outbreak situation
- Blanket authorisation from DPH and HPT to introduce additional measures when the Education Contingency Framework threshold has been met

Recommendations of East Berks Health Protection Board

- Mandatory face coverings in communal areas (unless exempt) for **staff, children and visitors** in secondary schools.
- Mandatory face coverings in communal areas (unless exempt) for **staff and visitors** in primary schools.
- Reduce contact between and within year groups in school where possible. The extent to which this can be achieved will be different between primary and secondary schools, and between individual schools. The priority remains minimising disruption to education, however where possible we advise the following:
 - Avoid mixing between groups (either class or year group)
 - Separate break and lunch areas / times where possible
 - Avoid whole school (primary) or whole year group (secondary) assemblies
- Any child or member of staff who has a household member test positive for COVID-19 should be advised to take a **daily LFD test for 7 days**, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test. Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those aged under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative **can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing**.
- Any child or member of staff who is identified as a close contact of a positive case via NHS Test and Trace should be advised to take a **daily LFD test for 7 days**, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test. Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those aged under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative **can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing**.

Recommendations of East Berks Health Protection Board

- Head teachers will be advised to implement these enhanced measures as soon as practicable
- Measures will remain in place until the end of the autumn term
- Measures will be kept under regular review by the East Berkshire Health Protection Board
- Any decision to amend or remove the measures will consider the following factors:
 - the case rate per 100,000 in school aged children
 - the rate of increase (or decrease) in case rates
 - vaccination rates in school aged children
 - the emergence of any new variants of concern
 - any adverse outcomes for those with Covid-19
 - any other viruses in circulation in education settings during the winter period