

Data for local outbreak planning: now and looking ahead - Hackney response to a local outbreak

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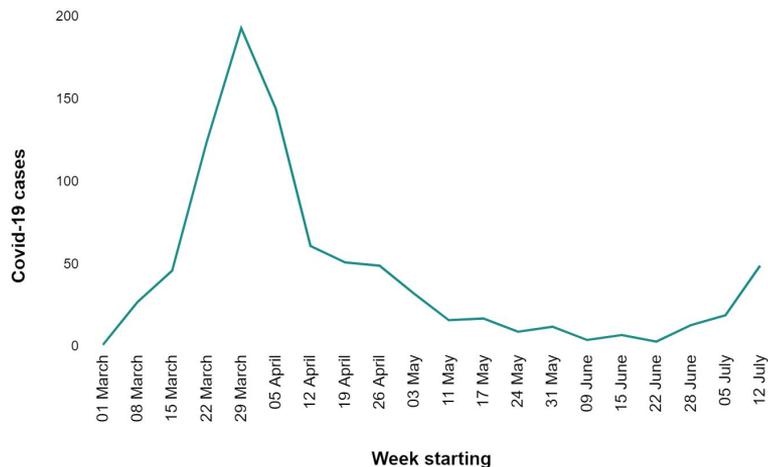
Presentation outline

- Detecting Covid-19 outbreak in Hackney
- Hackney Public Health response to the outbreak
- Impact of the response on the local epidemiological profile

A significant increase in the new daily Covid-19 cases has been noted in Hackney since the beginning of July with most cases coming from N16 postcode area

Detecting Covid-19 outbreak

Covid-19 cases over time and up to 18 of July, Hackney



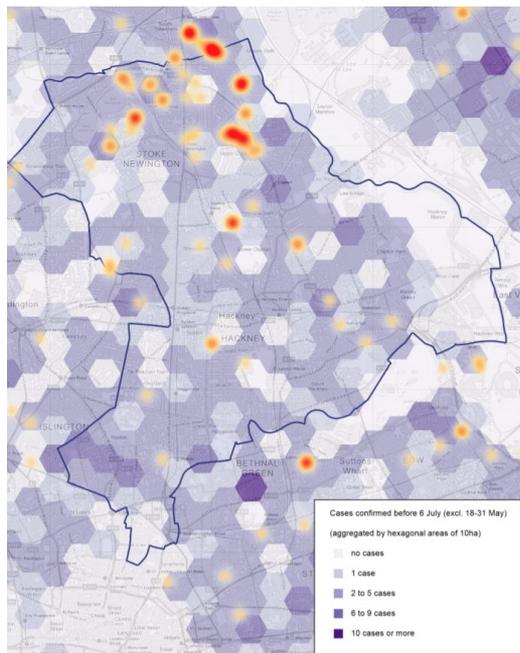
Data: Public Health England

- A total of 30 Covid-19 cases has been registered in Hackney in June.
- A sharp increase in new daily Covid-19 cases was noted since the beginning of July with a large proportion of the cases coming from one postcode area - N16.
- This postcode area covers Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill, Shacklewell, Dalston, Newington Green. These areas are among those with the highest number of Orthodox Jewish households in Hackney.
- Stamford Hill is the largest community of Strictly Orthodox Jews in the UK; 84% of the community live in north Hackney and 16% in South Haringey, however, most of the existing infrastructure is based in Hackney.
- The households are large and many families experience overcrowding, which combined with the population mixing patterns can increase the likelihood of infection transmission.

Of all the cases registered in N16 postcode area since the ease of the lockdown on 11 of May, about a third were in five households with two or more cases

Detecting Covid-19 outbreak

Covid-19 cases registered between 6 and 19 of July



- Since the ease of the lockdown (11 May onwards), 51 (35%) the new Covid-19 cases were from the N16 postcode area.
- Of the 51 cases from the N16 postcode area, 24 (47%) were reported between 1st and 16th July.
- Further analyses by postcode suggested that a relatively high proportion of household clusters.
- Of the 51 cases from the N16 postcode area, most (34) were single cases, and the remaining 17 (33%) were from 5 households with two or more cases.
- The heat map on the left shows the areas with high numbers of new Covid-19 cases diagnosed in two weeks between 6 and 19 of July; the purple shading indicates the density of all the Covid-19 cases registered to date.
- Analysis by age showed that unlike the early months of the pandemic, most of the cases were among younger age groups.

Data: Public Health England

The insights from the data allowed to take a swift and coordinated action in halting the infection spread in the community

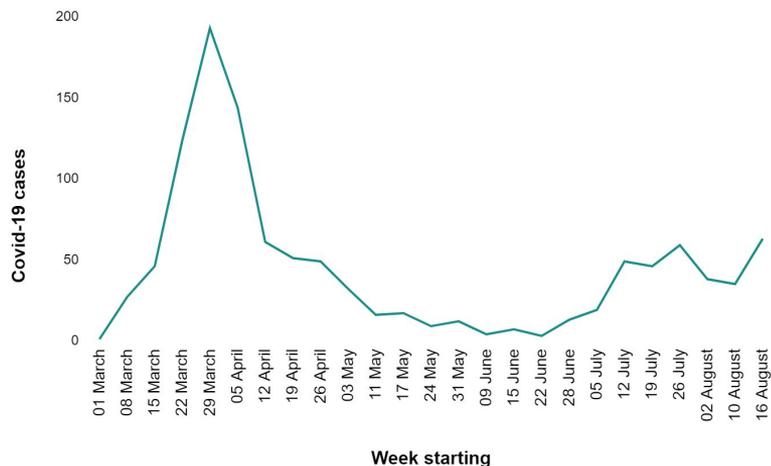
Hackney Public Health response

- The first Incidence Management Team meeting was called by the City and Hackney Public Health Team on the 21 of July; it included the representatives from the Orthodox Jewish Community, colleagues from the NHS, Hackney Communications Team, Haringey Council as well as the PHE.
- Community members confirmed that the local intelligence was representative of the situation on the ground, including household clusters and the age profile of the new cases.
- As a result of this and subsequent meetings with the community the following actions were taken:
 - A roll-out of a wide-reaching communications campaign, accompanied by extensive outreach work within the community.
 - Letters sent to educational establishments within the Jewish Community and to the Rabbinate outlining the concerns and asking for their continued support to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
 - A leaflet with the message from the Hackney Mayor and the Director of Public Health was sent to all homes in the Stamford Hill area, and homes in the surrounding area, including Seven Sisters in Haringey.
 - [Video message](#) by Hatzola - the ambulance service for the community - shared on social media platforms and WhatsApp.
 - A new regular Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) site was deployed at the heart of the community in Stamford Hill starting 26 of July; the average number of tests conducted at this MTU per day is now higher than the first Hackney MTU site at Bentley Road.

The overall trend in the number of new cases remains relatively stable since mid-July, however some of the areas in Hackney still experience high incidence levels

Impact of the response

Covid-19 cases over time and up to 22 August, Hackney



- The current trend shows the plateauing of the number of cases in Hackney.
- The test positivity rates for the past two weeks (up to 23 of August) are comparable with the previous fortnight period (up to 9 of August) - 2.1% versus 2%, respectively.
- Two of the Hackney wards still see a high weekly Covid-19 incidence rate of over 50 new cases per 100,000 population, however the absolute weekly number in these wards remains relatively low - at 10 cases, according to the most recent PHE data.
- City and Hackney Public Health Team continues to carefully monitor the trends and the characteristics of the new cases.
- Tracing testing uptake by the Orthodox Jewish community, however, is challenging as the current ethnicity coding within the testing data does not allow for that.

Thank you and questions

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