

Covid-19 - Update to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Becky Pollard
Consultant in Public Health

January 2022



Reading
Borough Council

Working better with you

Key Messages

- The rate of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population in Reading has continued to increase. The rate is now much higher than the peak of the previous wave in January 2021.
- Most Covid-19 cases in Reading are now the new Omicron variant.
- Case rates in older age groups began to increase considerably towards the end of 2021. This may have implications for future hospitalisations and mortality.
- Case rates per population are now highest in younger adults.
- The rate of cases in school age children and young people have fallen below the LA average. While Omicron cases appear to be more prevalent in younger adults, it is possible that cases in children and young people may begin to increase when schools return after the Christmas holidays.
- Around 67% of people in Reading have had 2 doses of a Covid-19 vaccine and 45% have received a booster, compared to 83% and 62% nationally. This is likely to reflect Reading's younger population and other eligibility criteria.



Reading
Borough Council

Working better with you

Latest case rate compared to neighbouring local authorities

The Covid-19 case rate per 100,000 population in Reading is currently similar to rates in the South East and in most Berkshire LAs. Case rates across Berkshire and the South East are, in general, lower than the England average.



Area	Cases per 100,000 population - All ages (weekly)		Cases per 100,000 population - 60+ (weekly)	
Bracknell Forest	1901.5	↑	1087.4	↑
Reading	1482.5	↑	885.1	↑
Slough	1371.9	↑	985.6	↑
West Berkshire	1449.5	↑	656.5	↑
Windsor and Maidenhead	1521.8	↑	920.9	↑
Wokingham	1430.3	↑	834.7	↑
South East	1469.4	↑	799.8	↑
England	1709.1	↑	980.7	↑

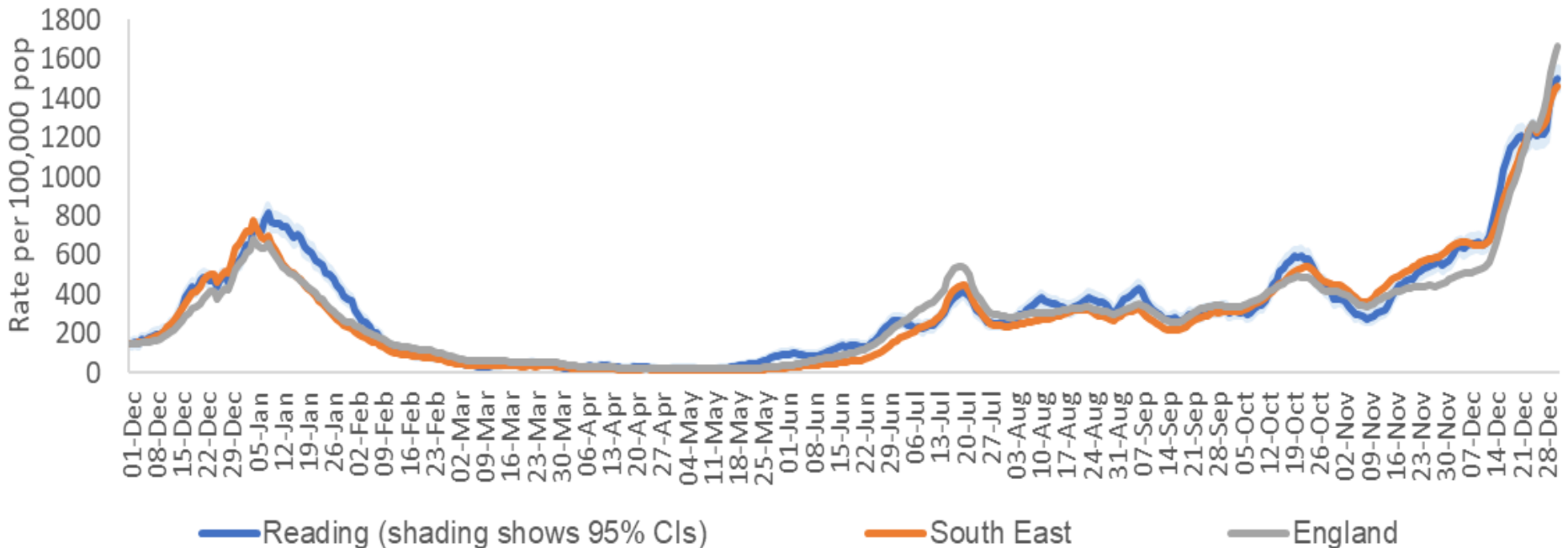
PH Berkshire Covid-19 Surveillance Dashboard - 10th January 2022 - Situational awareness indicators from 26/12/21 to 01/01/22, in comparison to previous 7-day period



Changes in case rate in Reading over time

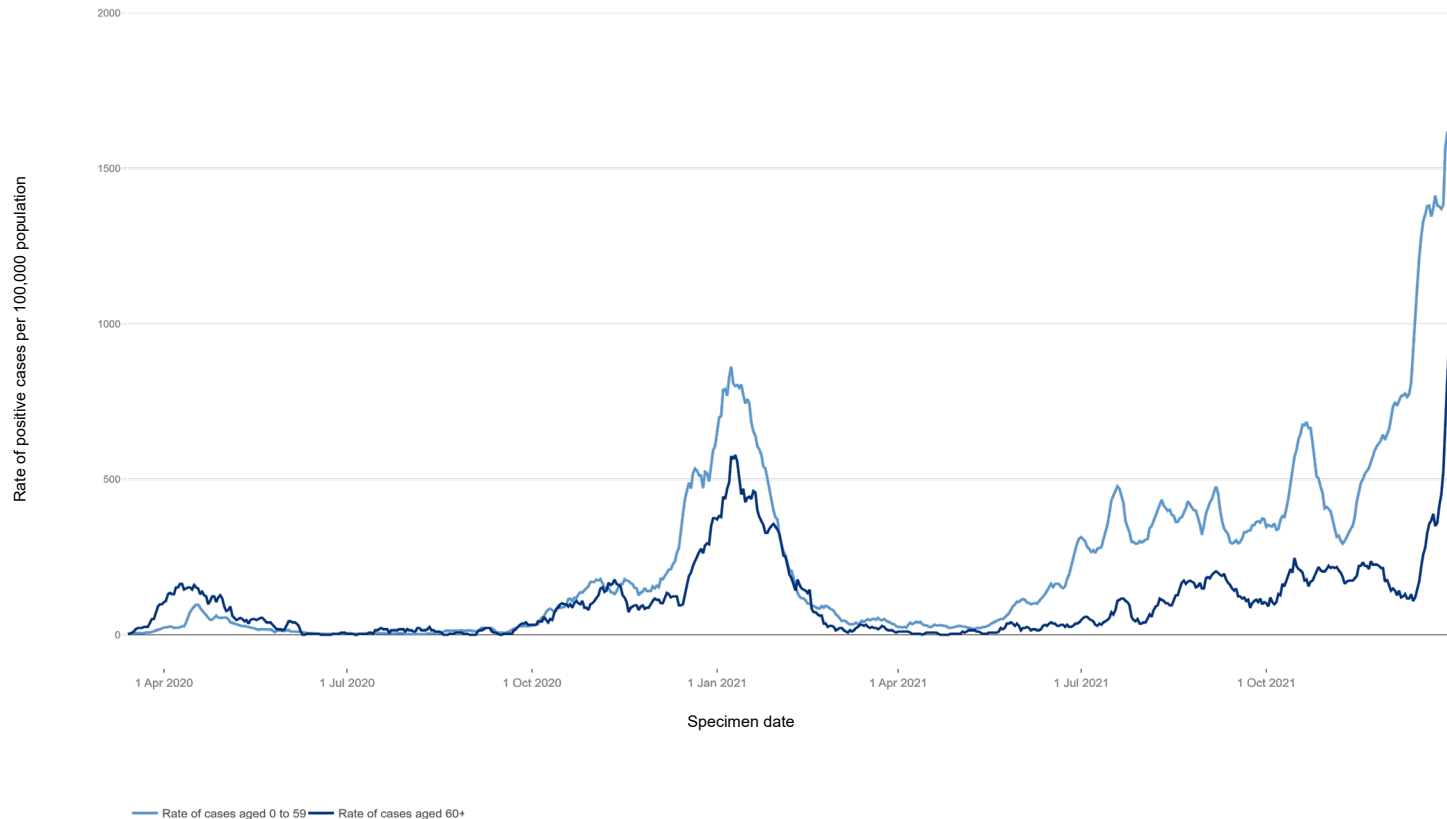
- Case rates have risen steeply in Reading and elsewhere during November and December and are predicted to continue to increase until at least mid-January

Weekly rate of confirmed cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population



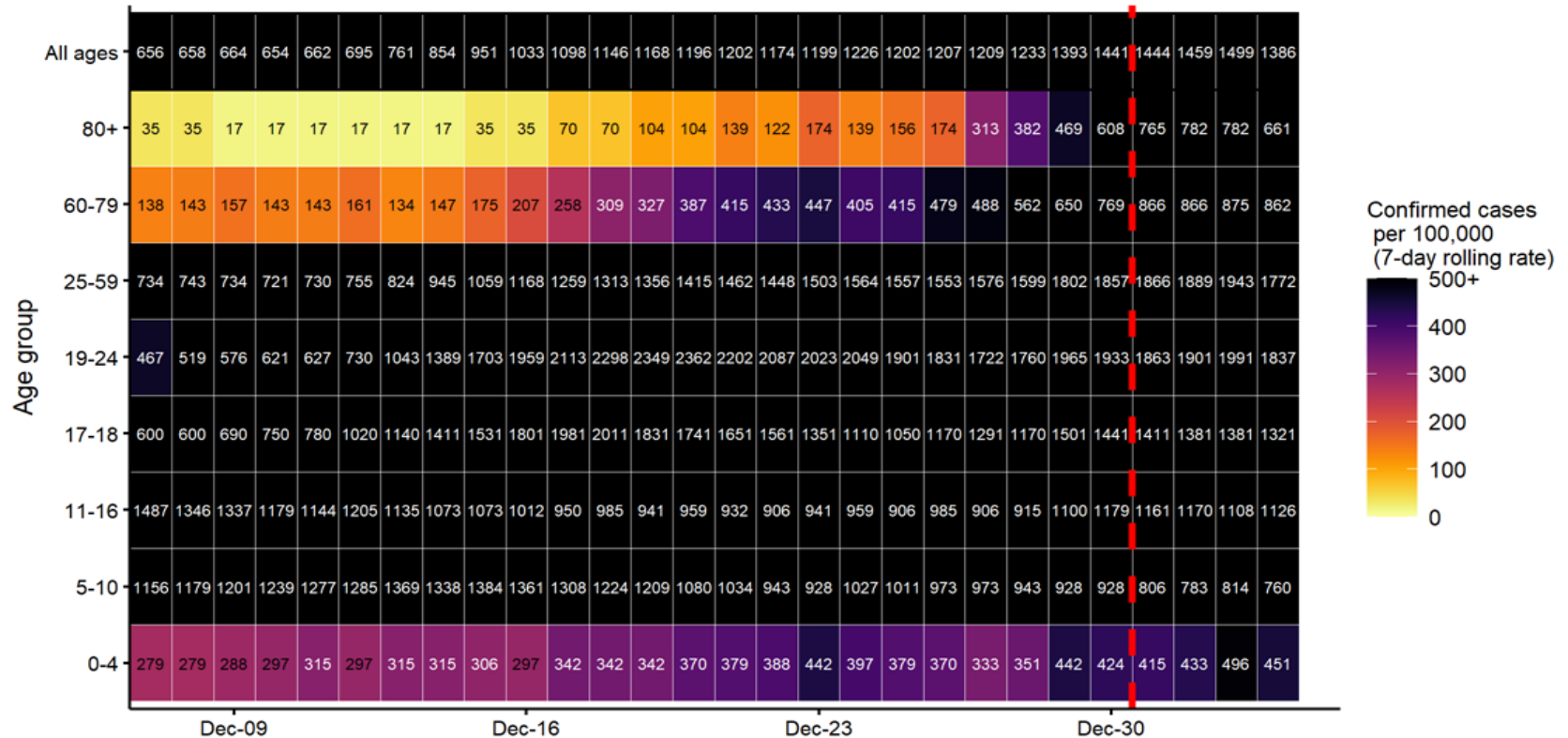
Changes in case rate in Reading over time - by broad age group

- Case rates in both the general population and the 60+ population are now at their highest since the start of the pandemic. During the previous peak in January 2021 the overall case rate reached around 800 per 100,000 and the case rate in those aged 60 reached around 500 per 100,000.



Case rate by age group

- Case rates are currently highest in younger adults.
- Rates in children and young people have fallen slightly since the beginning of school holidays at the end of December, but may be expected to increase again now schools have re-opened
- Case rates in older age groups began to increase considerably at the end of December

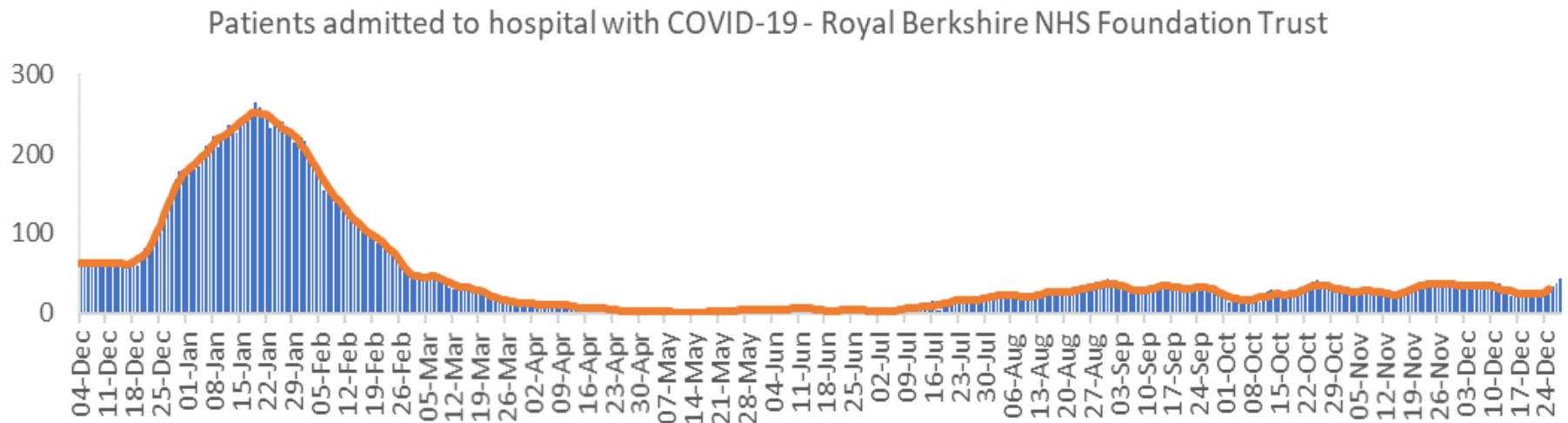


PHE LA Report - 6th January 2022- Case rate per 100,000 by age group - Age-specific 7-day rolling case rates per 100,000 population, Reading, 7th December 2021 to 3rd January 2022, highlighting age groups of interest. The red dashed line denotes the 4 most recent days data are provisional.



Covid-19 patients in Royal Berkshire Hospital

- Hospital admissions have started to rise, but not currently reaching levels seen in previous waves.
- Latest data shows 77 people from Reading currently in hospital with Covid-19, 70% have had two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine and 10% have had a booster. 26% are unvaccinated, including a small number who declined a vaccination for health reasons*



[www.coronavirus.data.gov.uk/PH Berkshire Covid-19 Surveillance Dashboard](https://www.coronavirus.data.gov.uk/PH/Berkshire-Covid-19-Surveillance-Dashboard) - 10th January 2022

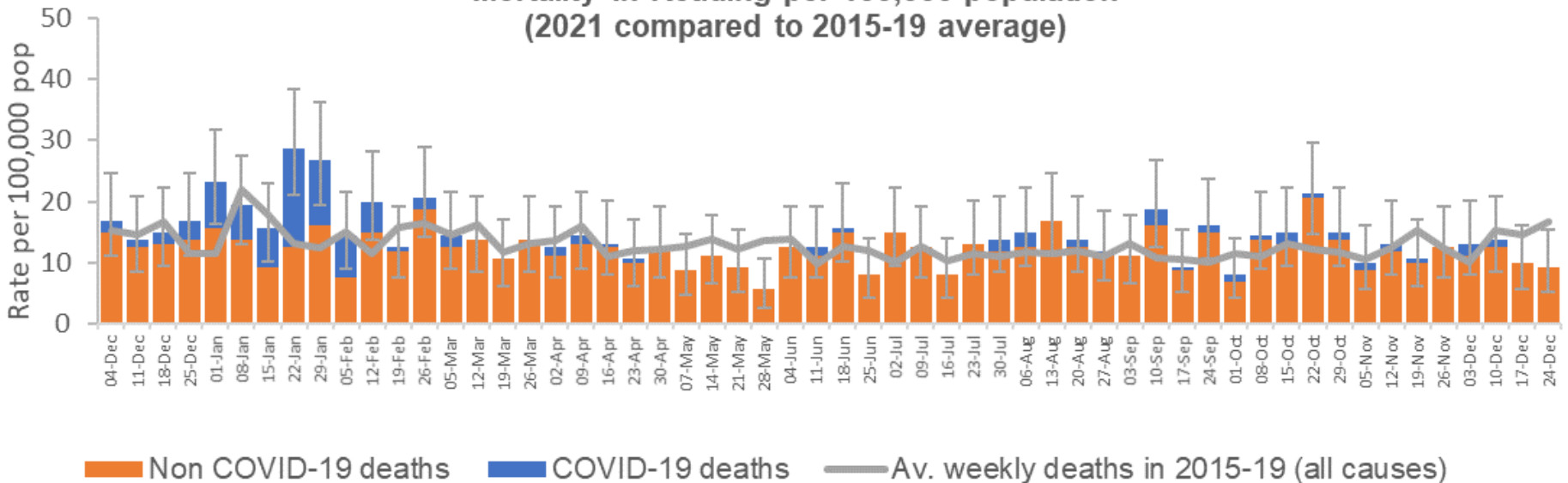
* Frimley ICS System Insights - 10th January 2022



Mortality rate in Reading

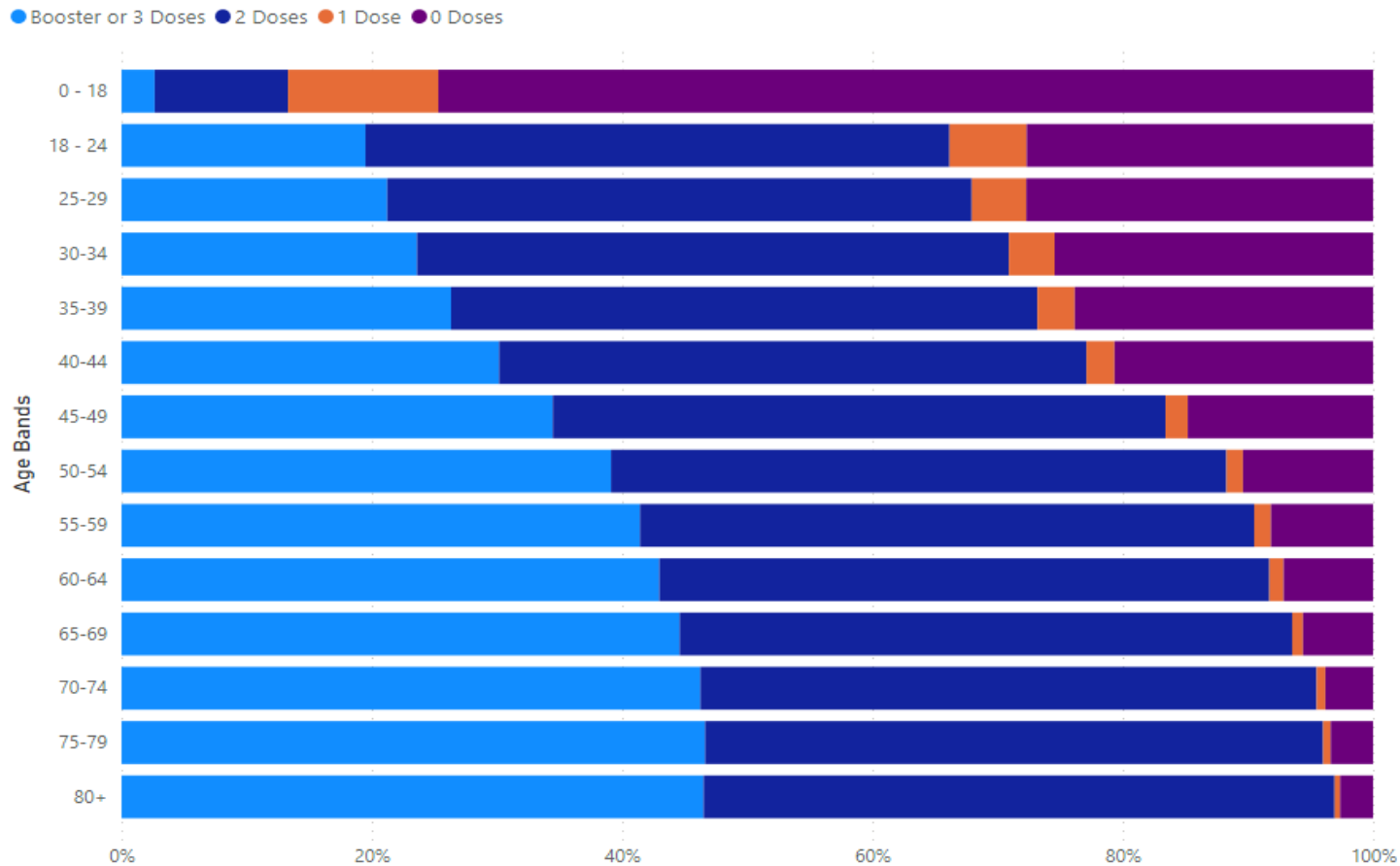
- Currently no increase in deaths related to Covid-19 following the most recent wave.

Mortality in Reading per 100,000 population
(2021 compared to 2015-19 average)



Vaccination in Reading by age

- 67% of people in Reading aged 12 and older have received two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine and 45% have received a booster (compared to 83% and 62% in the UK). This is likely to reflect Reading's younger population and other eligibility criteria.
- Vaccination uptake by age group suggests those aged 20-39 years in Reading are the most likely not to have had any Covid-19 vaccine.



NHS Statistics reported via RBC Vaccinations Dashboard - 10th January 2022



Cases identified as Omicron variant

- By mid-December the majority of specimens from Reading sent for full analysis were found to be the Omicron variant

Number of Specimens by Specimen Date and Variant

