

Public meeting on COVID-19 enhanced testing in parts of Hanwell & West Ealing

Anna Bryden

Director of Public Health, Ealing Council

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EALING COUNCIL

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Current situation - UK

- All viruses are known to change over time and new variants / types emerge
- A new variant of COVID-19 was found in South Africa in late 2020
- In the UK, 5% of tests are randomly chosen and analysed to identify which variant the person has
- Through this analysis, around 100 people have been found in the UK with the South African variant
- Almost all have had direct links to South Africa (e.g. recent travel)
- A small number around the country have been found not to have any direct links, so it is likely that there is transmission within communities in the UK

Current situation - Ealing

- Through the 5% random sample, one person in W7 was identified as having had the variant with no direct links to South Africa
- That person tested positive at the end of December and followed all the rules, isolated & is well
- This person is one of 11 identified in 8 different local authorities, so this is being nationally led
- National experts have advised that **additional testing** should take place in these local areas for 2 weeks:
 - To help **identify** any other cases and to help **control** the spread of this variant
 - To help us **understand** how the variant is spreading and **protect** our communities
- **For people with COVID-19 symptoms:** self-isolate and get tested through normal routes. All samples in Ealing (not just 5%) will be sent to the specialist lab to identify the variant
- **For people without any COVID-19 symptoms:** testing is being offered to 10,000 people in parts of W7 and W13 postcode areas
- Anyone who tests **positive** using any kind of COVID-19 test must then **self-isolate**

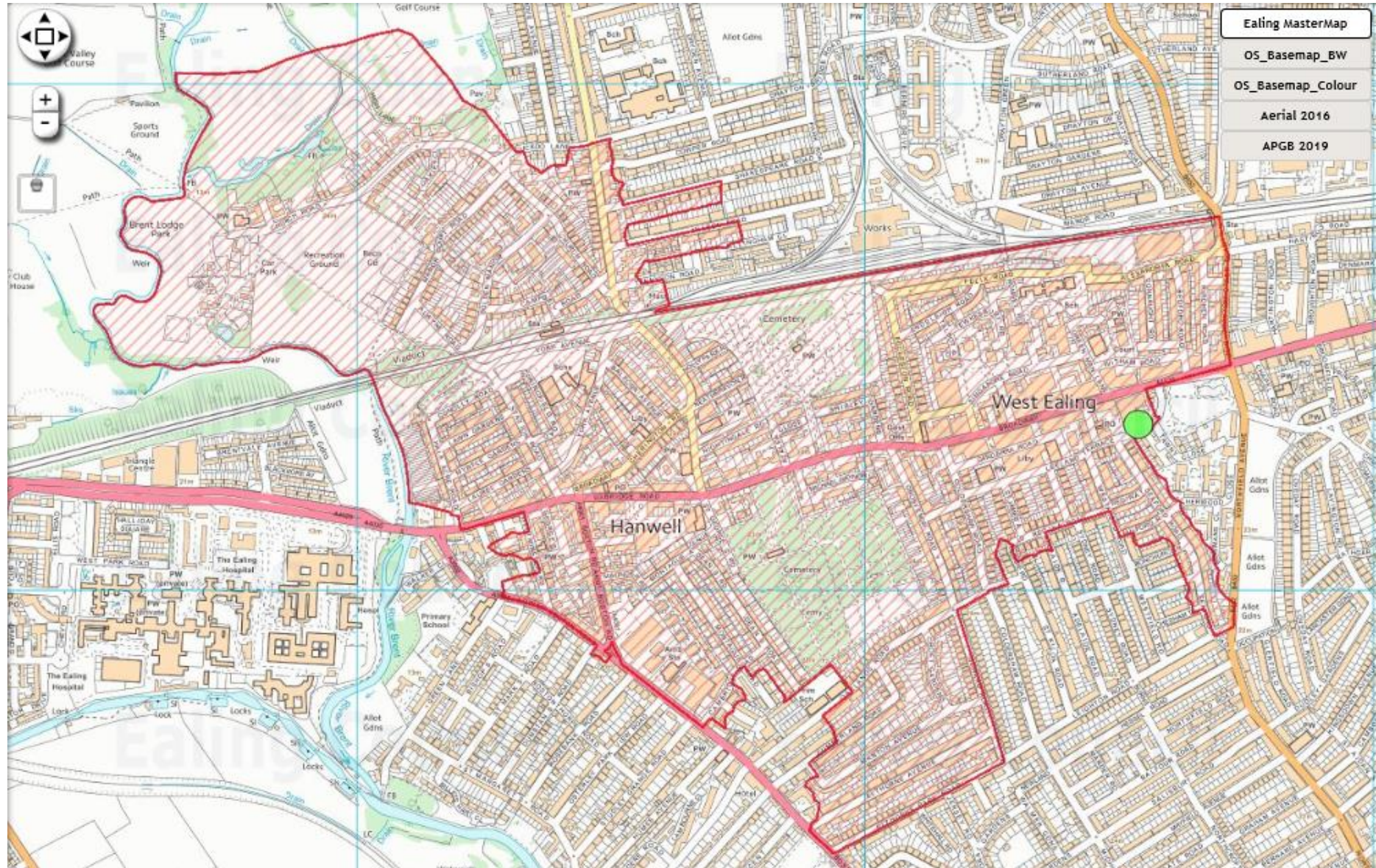
South African variant

- Identified in late 2020
- Few cases in UK, so most of our understanding is from South Africa
- Are the symptoms the same? Yes – high temperature, cough, loss of sense of smell/taste
- How quickly does it spread? Similar to new UK variant
- Does it make people more ill? No
- Will the vaccines protect against it? No evidence that they won't provide protection

Map of area

Anyone over 16 who lives or works in parts of Hanwell & West Ealing:

- W7 1
- W7 2
- W7 3
- W13 0
- W13 9

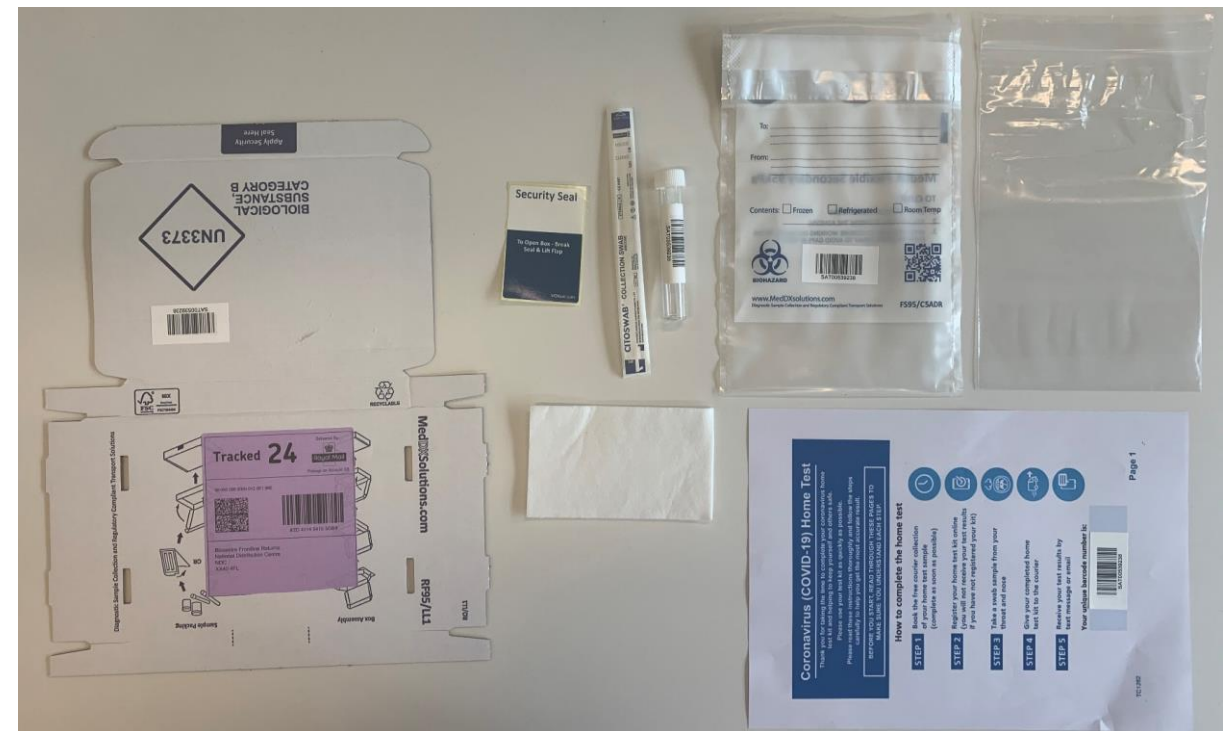


Testing options

- **If you have any symptoms of COVID-19:**
 - Self-isolate and book a test through normal route
 - <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or ring 119
- **If you don't have any symptoms of COVID-19, and aren't self-isolating, please take part in our enhanced testing in the local area:**
 - Every residential address in this area will be visited to hand out home testing kits
 - Testing site at Dean Gardens Car Park

Home testing kits

- The Council will be visiting every residential address in this area over the next few days
- Home testing kits handed out and someone picks them up 2 hours later (please don't post)
- If someone isn't home, letter is put through door asking them to book at testing site
- Special ID badge with council logo
- Standard PPE – gloves, apron, mask
- Dates and areas on website
- 983 homes visited so far today



Dean Gardens Car Park testing site

- 8am-3pm
- Especially for people who need to be out and about for work
- Book a slot at:
<https://www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- 794 people tested at site so far



About the test

- Nose and throat swab
- PCR test
- You will receive results 3 days later
- **If you have a positive result, you will need to self-isolate for 10 days**
- NHS Test & Trace service will be in touch to ask about anyone you've had close contact with recently, and they will also be asked to self-isolate for 10 days
- If you have a positive result, your sample will also be sent to the specialist lab to find out which variant you have. If you have the South African variant, you will be contacted a couple of weeks later to let you know. You may be asked to answer some additional questions to help protect other people, but you do not need to take any further actions.

Key messages

- Continue to follow the **current national lockdown restrictions** – stay at home as much as possible
- Continue to protect yourself and others – **Hands, Face, Space**
- **Please take a test**
- **If you test positive, you must isolate for 10 days** to stop the spread of the virus
- **Support is available:** <https://ealingtogether.org/> or ring 020 8825 7170
- **Please do attend your COVID-19 vaccine appointment.** You will receive an invitation from the NHS.
- **There is no need to take any other action – businesses, schools, etc to remain functioning as they currently are**
- **More details and FAQs:** <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus>