

# Liverpool Covid-SMART Pilot

Systematic **M**eaningful **A**symptomatic **R**epeated **T**esting

Addressing SARS-CoV-2 transmission  
and harms from Covid-19 restrictions, as one system

10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for SAGE Covid 72

Iain Buchan, Calum Semple,  
[REDACTED]

# Intervention and evaluation

- Oct 31: Govt **offers** Liverpool mass testing with military assistance
- Nov 1: Mersey Resilience Forum **accepts** in principle, for **resilience and recovery**
- Nov 3: Liverpool accepts a **MAST** (Mass Asymptomatic Serial Testing) **pilot** during **Tier 3**, working toward targeted approach; **emergency** response stood up
- Nov 5: national **lockdown**; communications drive; Cheshire & Mersey CIPHA (Combined Intelligence for Population Health Action) **dataflows**; pilot activated
- Nov 6: first 6 asymptomatic testing **sites** (ATS) open, 16 within 24h
- Nov 11: capacity **increased**: 48 ATS; 15 mobile units; home PCR kits (one off); **after action evaluation (biology; behaviours; systems)** steering group
- Nov 20: 15 popular ATS kept; **redeploy** to smaller ATS in low uptake areas
- Dec 2: Liverpool into **Tier 2**
- Dec 3: **handover** from military; targeting begins as Liverpool **Covid-SMART** (Systematic Meaningful Asymptomatic Repeated Testing)

# Summary of findings

- From 6<sup>th</sup> Nov to 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 25% of the Liverpool population took up LFT and 35% took up either LFT or PCR, where 891 positive individuals were identified by LFT and 2829 by PCR
- Planning week vital: logistics, combined data/intelligence, communications
- Key to deployment: daily command, data review, rapid adaptation
- Innova lateral flow test (LFT) detecting ~2/3 of substantially infectious people, and not detecting ~3/5 PCR positive people
- Predictors of low uptake predictors: digitally excluded, deprived, young adult males
- Some areas with higher prevalence had lower uptake, but not consistently
- High variability of uptake between neighbourhoods and over time
- Uptake varied with delivery/access site type and communications
- Uptake of PCR had larger consistent socio-demographic inequalities than LFT
- Switch from national to local follow-up system improved confirmatory PCR uptake
- Media misinformation over LFT affected public confidence
- Repeated LFT and LFT+ PCR combinations can improve accuracy but need careful explanation
- Shift from MAST (Mass Asymptomatic Serial Testing) to SMART (Systematic Meaningful Asymptomatic Testing) to reflect end-to-end, responsive solution
- SMART: test-to-protect (the vulnerable); test-to-release (from quarantine); test-to-enable (abeyance of restrictions)
- Better support for those isolating is essential to uptake out of lockdown or Tier 3
- Emergency (gold/silver/bronze) operations and intensive resources needed to deploy testing

# Quality Assurance of Innova LFT (+ procedure)

		QA PCR Result		
		Negative	Positive	Void
LFT Site Result	Negative	5405	41	341
	Positive	3	28	2
	Void	18	4	0

Accuracy measures (excluding VOID results) with 95% CI:

Sensitivity (true positive rate) = 40.58% (28.91% to 53.08%)

Specificity (true negative rate) = 99.94% (99.84% to 99.99%)

Predictive value of +ve test (post-test likelihood of PCR +ve)  
= 90.32% (74.25% to 97.96%)

Predictive value of -ve test (post-test likelihood of PCR -ve)  
= 99.25% (98.98% to 99.46%)

Operator variance inferred from  
Oxford/Porton Down validation studies: -

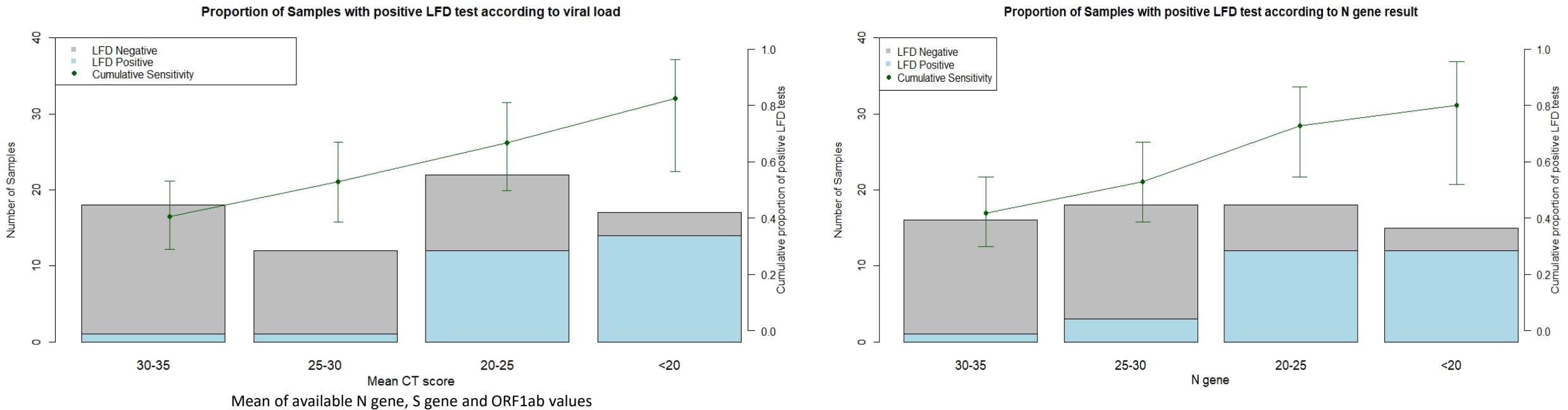
- Swabbing quality (supervision/instruction)
- Feint blue line reading
- Mis-labelling void

~ headroom for sensitivity

Test accuracy may also vary with: -

- Manufacture / batch variation
- Storage/transport - temperature

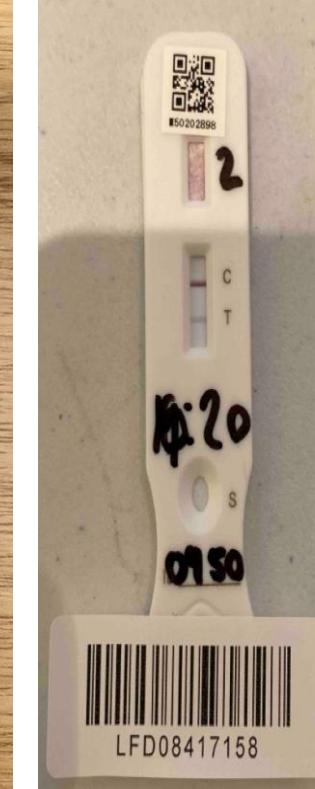
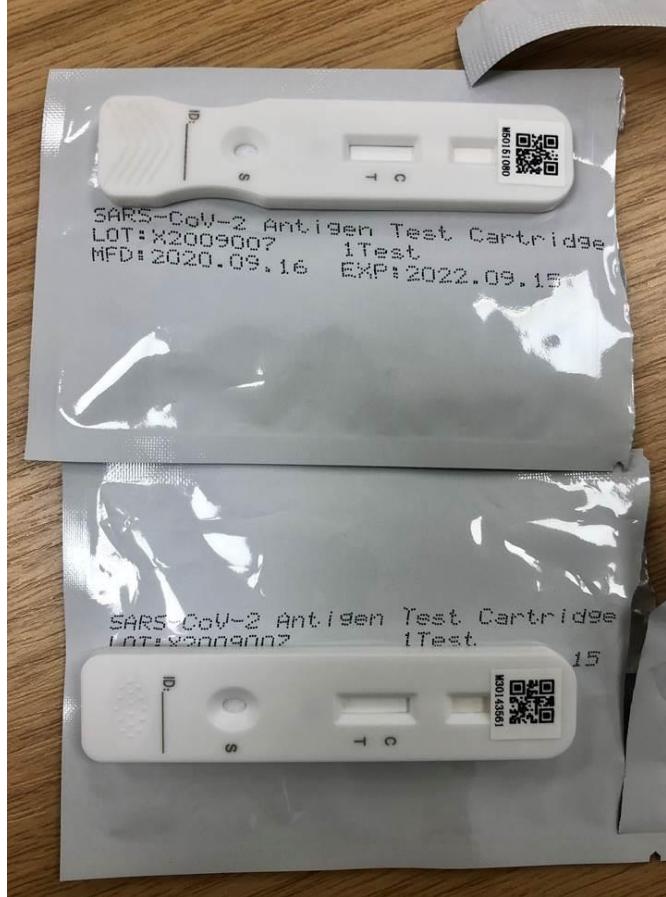
# Ability to pick up the most infectious individuals



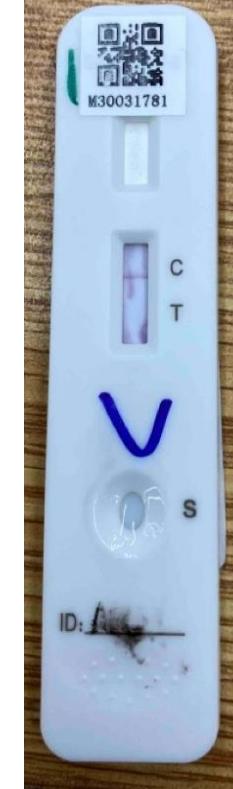
		Mean (N gene, S gene, ORF1ab) score {N gene only} from PCR								
		<20	20-25	25-30	30-35	+ve (n/a)	void (30-35)	void (>35)	void (n/a)	-ve
LFD Site Results	-ve	3 {3}	10 {6}	11 {15}	17 {15}	{2}	5 {6}	8 {4}	328 {331}	5405 {5405}
	+ve	14 {12}	12 {12}	1 {3}	1 {1}	{0}	0 {0}	0 {0}	2 {2}	3 {3}
	Void	2 {1}	2 {3}	0 {0}	0 {0}	{0}	0 {0}	0 {0}	0 {0}	18 {18}
Cumulative Sensitivity		82.4 (56.6, 96.2)	66.7 (49.8, 80.9)	52.9 (38.4, 67.1)	40.6 (28.9, 53.1)					
95% CI		{80.0 (51.9, 95.7)}	{72.7 (54.5, 86.7)}	{52.9 (38.5, 67.1)}	{41.8 (29.8, 54.5)}					

Working inference (viral loads/durations debated): detecting around two thirds of the substantially infectious people, and not detecting around three fifths of PCR positive individuals

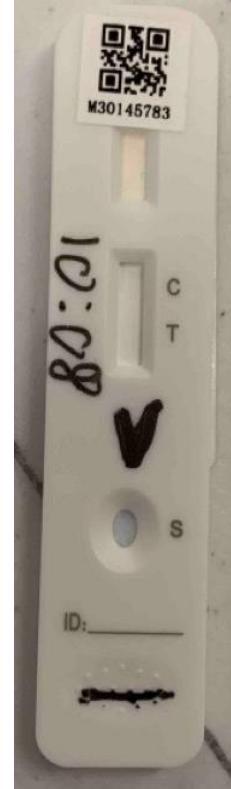
# Variants of Innova device and labelling



LFD08417158  
CT: 19.5, MS2: 22.1



LFD08175065



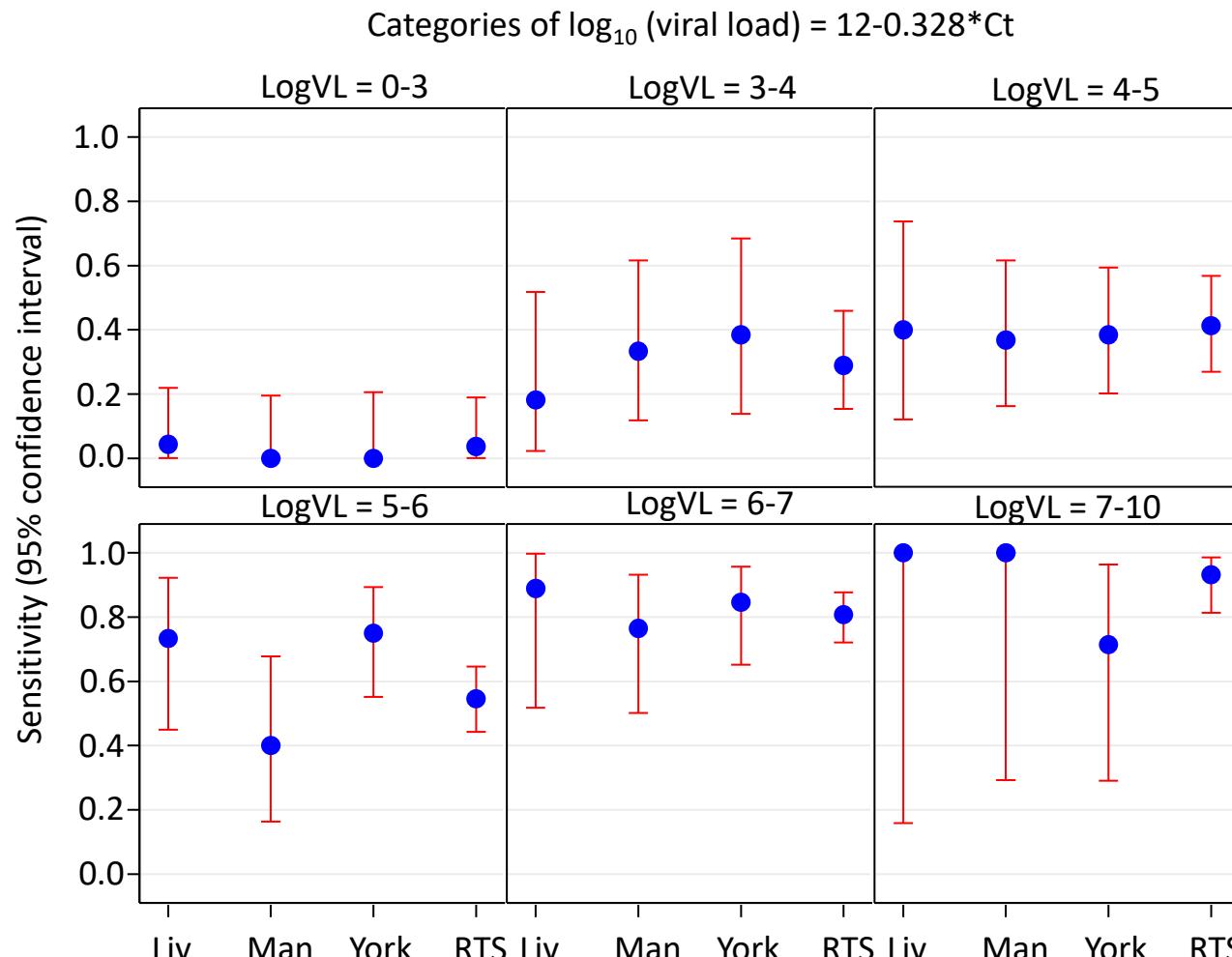
LFD07469554



LFD08982472

Test accuracy could vary with manufacture, swabbing, temperature, reading, labelling  
The end-to-end process sensitivity may have headroom for improvement

# Heterogeneity of Innova LFT real-world accuracy

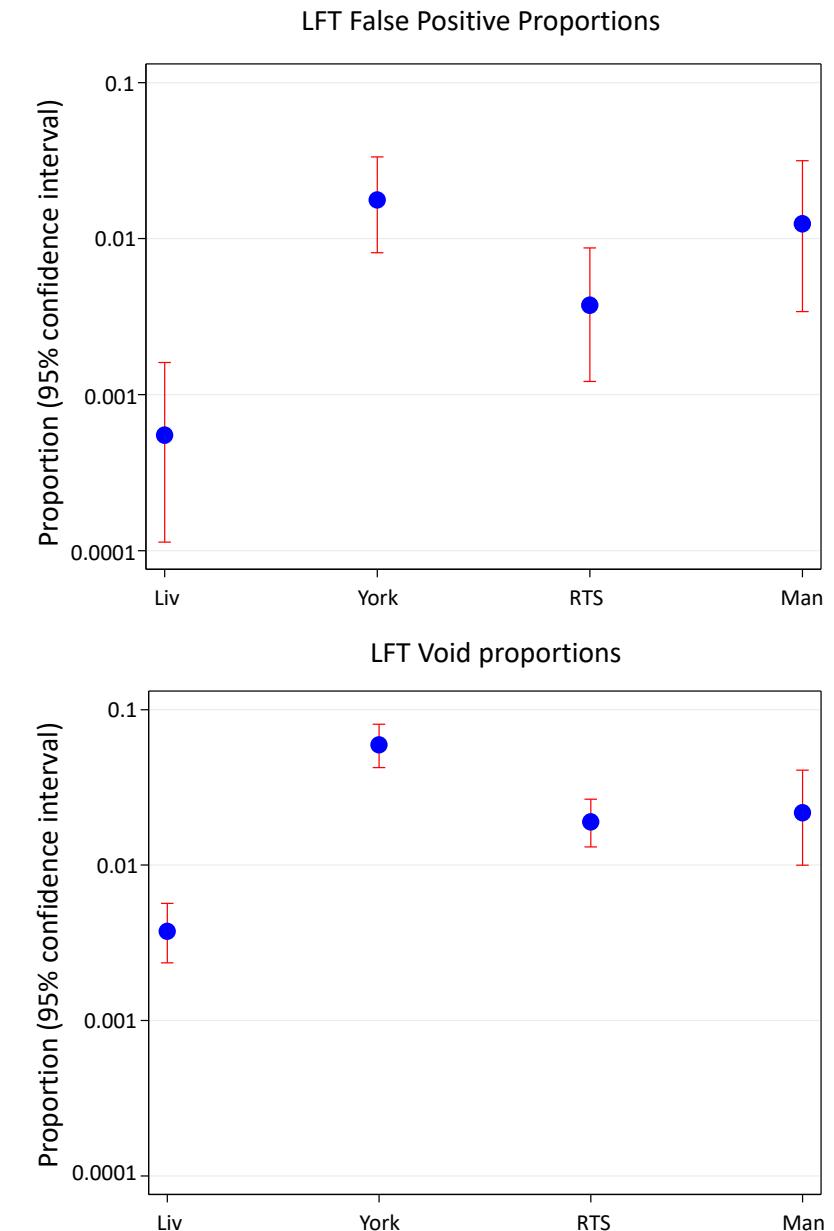


Liv = Liverpool SMART pilot QA sample (n = 5859)

Man = Manchester drive in self-swab QA (n = 403)

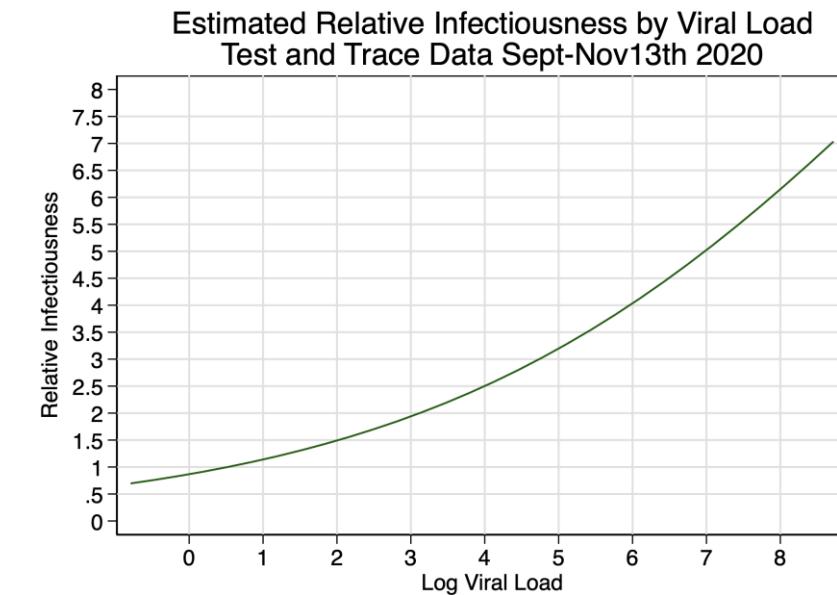
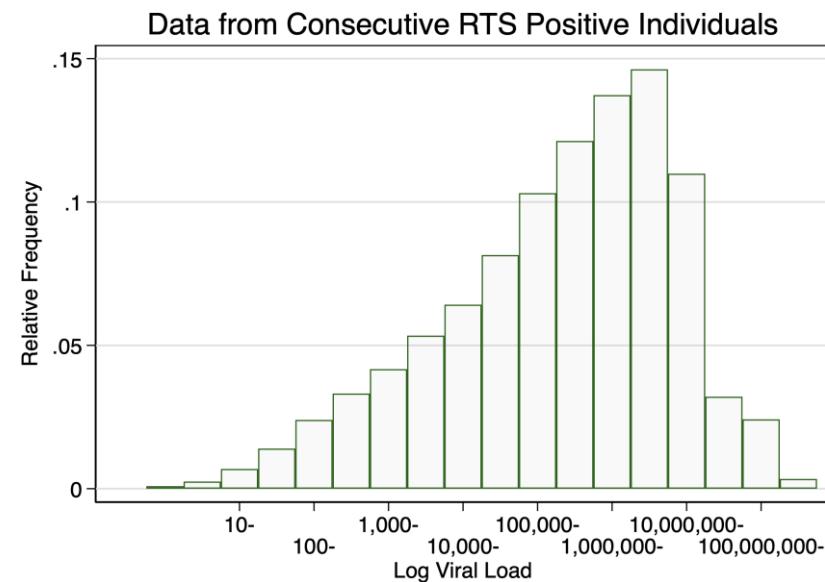
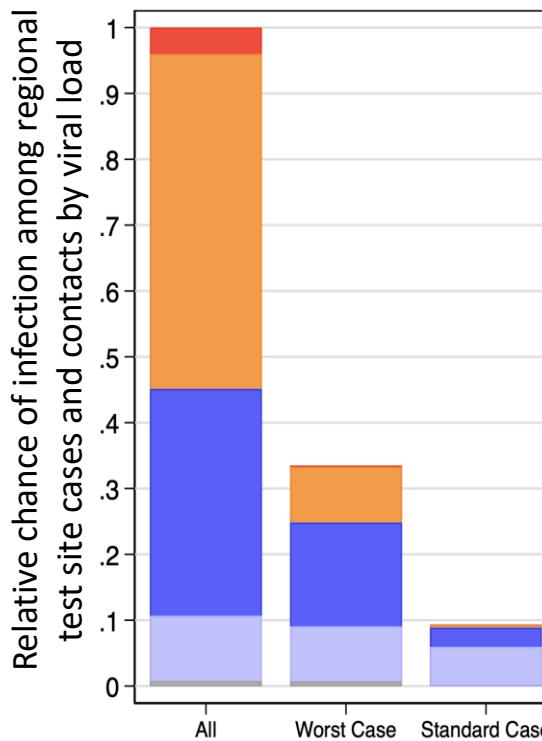
York = York drive in self-swab QA (n = 599) – pending data assurance

RTS = DHSC Regional Test Site paired LFT + PCR reference study (n = 1704)

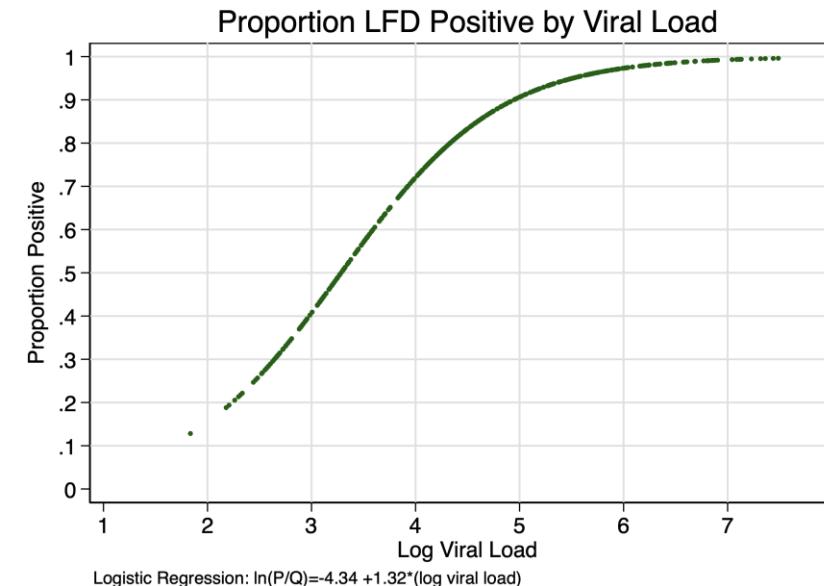


# Assumption that Ct<25 picks up most infectious

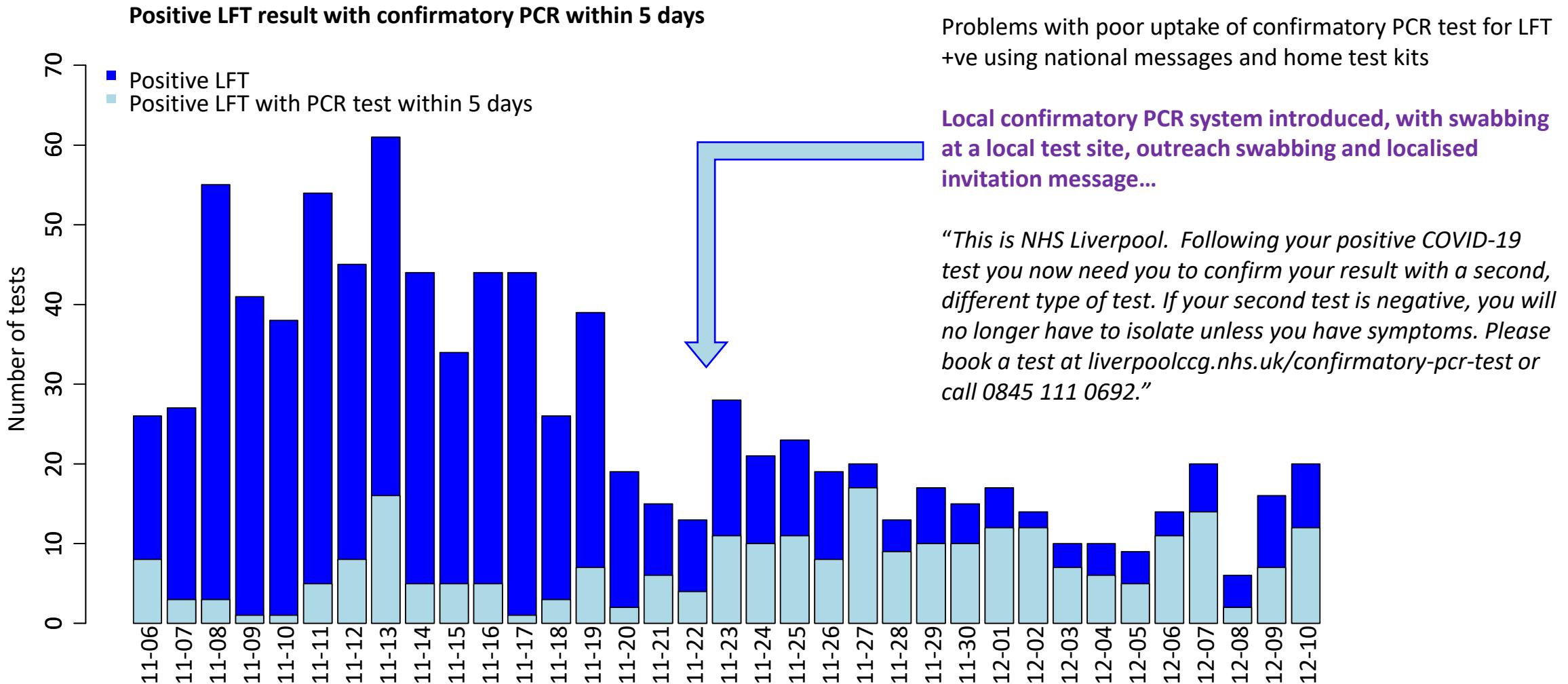
Relative chance of being infected from data on contact networks and LFT + PCR pairs on those attending regional test sites and contacts (from T. Peto et al)



	Viral load RNA copies/ml	Log viral load	Innova Liverpool detection %	Approximate Ct	
				Porton	Glasgow
	>100M	8-10+	~100%	<14.9	<12.2
	1-100M	6-8	~90%	14.9-21.5	12.2-18.3
	10K-1M	4-6	~40%	21.5-28.1	18.3-24.4
	100-10K	2-4	~20%	28.1-34.6	24.4-30.5
	<100	0-2	~10%	>34.6	>30.5



# Confirmatory PCR uptake required local solution



# Care home visiting pilot from 3<sup>rd</sup> December

- Informed by paired LFT+PCR analysis, modelling in Liverpool and SPI-M, and focus group with Liverpool community stakeholders in care home living, operating and visiting
- Visiting protocol summary
  1. Visitor takes LFT and PCR at dedicated testing site within 24h of visit
  2. Proceed to care home if LFT –ve (overridden by +ve PCR if reported in time), isolate if +ve
  3. Second LFT at care home – proceed if –ve, isolate and confirmatory PCR if +ve
  4. Supervised visit with PPE and no hugging but hand holding through gloves; visitor signs agreement to observe rules, and homes apply risk assessments
  5. Visitor journey through care home documented
- Wider precautions
  - Continued emphasis of infection prevention and control / testing not fail-safe
  - Visitor household repeated testing encouragement

# Summary: Liverpool and nearby (worker) residents

## Tests & Cases

All Cheshire & Merseyside (C&M) residents tested at any Pillar 2 test site and non-C&M residents tested at a C&M test site

**593,576** **398,460** **19,898** **0.54 %** **5.78 %**

Tests Completed (LFT+PCR)

Individuals Tested (LFT+PCR)

**19,898**

**0.54 %**

**5.78 %**

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE. Note: this report does not include Pillar 1 data.



Combined Intelligence for  
Population Health Action

Dates Selected: 06/11/2020 - 09/12/2020

Note: positivity rate calculations do not follow PHE methodology

### TEST COUNTS

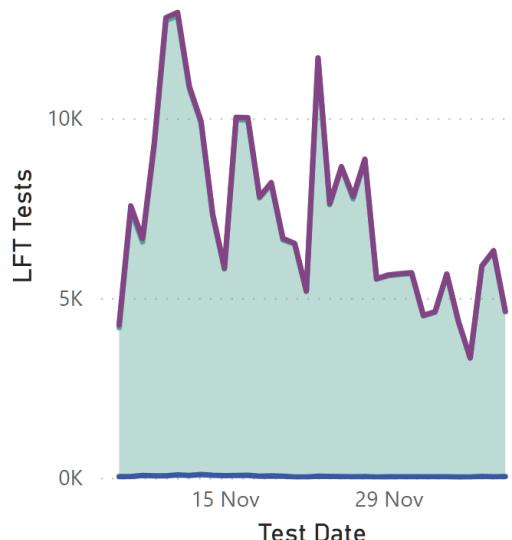
Test Kit	Tests Completed	Positivity Rate (not PHE methodology)	Positive Tests	Negative Tests	Void / Insufficient Tests
LFT	248,366	0.54 %	1,325	245,675	1,366
PCR	345,210	5.78 %	19,651	320,202	5,357
<b>Total</b>	<b>593,576</b>	<b>3.57 %</b>	<b>20,976</b>	<b>565,877</b>	<b>6,723</b>

### INDIVIDUALS TESTED POSITIVE

Test Kit	Individuals Tested	Individuals Tested Positive	Positivity Rate (not PHE methodology)
LFT	165,785	1,308	0.54 %
PCR	257,190	18,932	5.78 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>398,460</b>	<b>19,898</b>	<b>3.57 %</b>

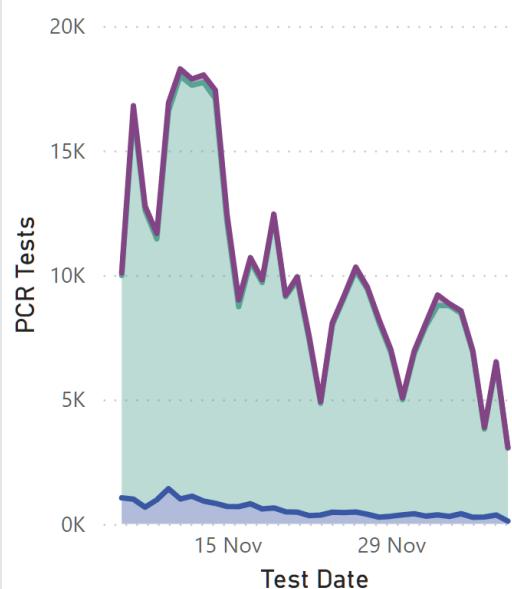
### TESTS OVER TIME: LFT

● Positive ● Negative ● Void/insufficient

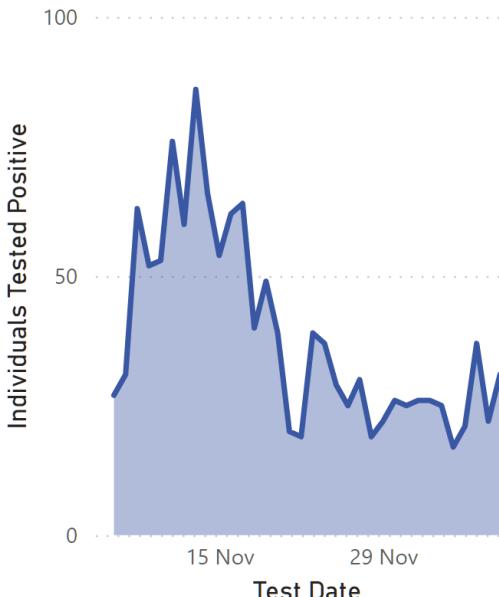


### TESTS OVER TIME: PCR

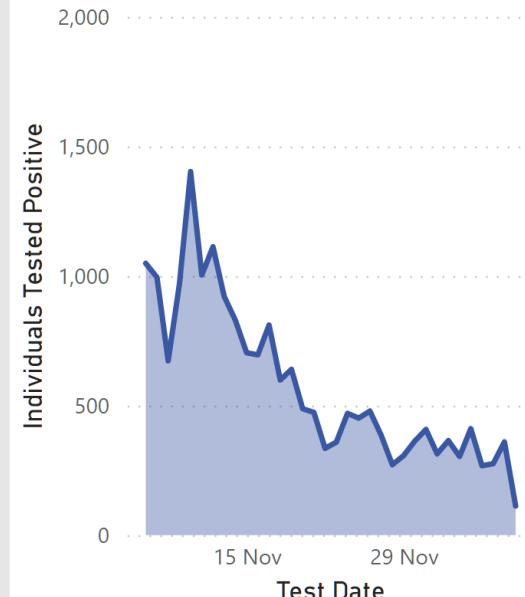
● Positive ● Negative ● Void/insufficient



### INDIVIDUALS TESTED POSITIVE OVER TIME: LFT



### INDIVIDUALS TESTED POSITIVE OVER TIME: PCR



# Summary: Liverpool Residents

## Tests & Cases

All Liverpool residents tested at any Pillar 2 test site

**277,014**

Tests Completed (LFT+PCR)

**179,018**

Individuals Tested (LFT+PCR)

**3,508**

Individuals Tested Positive (LFT+PCR)

**0.49 %**

LFT Positivity Rate

**3.26 %**

PCR Positivity Rate

Dates Selected: 06/11/2020 - 09/12/2020



Combined Intelligence for Population Health Action

Note: positivity rate calculations do not follow PHE methodology

### TEST COUNTS

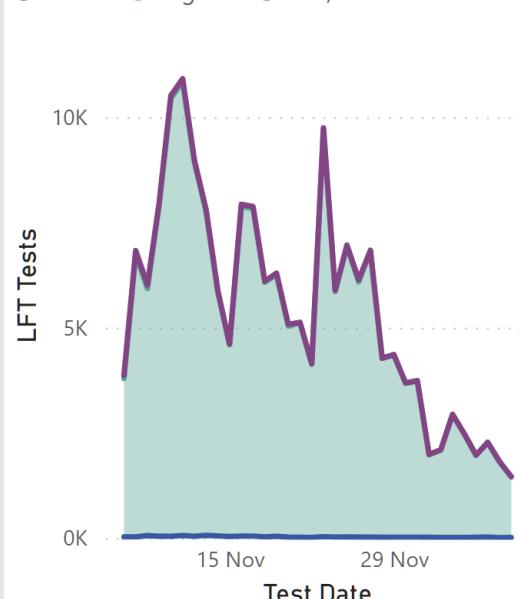
Test Kit	Tests Completed	Positivity Rate (not PHE methodology)	Positive Tests	Negative Tests	Void / Insufficient Tests
LFT	184,596	0.49 %	903	182,629	1,064
PCR	92,418	3.26 %	2,966	87,905	1,547
<b>Total</b>	<b>277,014</b>	<b>1.41 %</b>	<b>3,869</b>	<b>270,534</b>	<b>2,611</b>

### CASES IDENTIFIED

Test Kit	Individuals Tested	Individuals Tested Positive	Positivity Rate (not PHE methodology)
LFT	123,247	891	0.49 %
PCR	74,267	2,829	3.26 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>179,018</b>	<b>3,508</b>	<b>1.41 %</b>

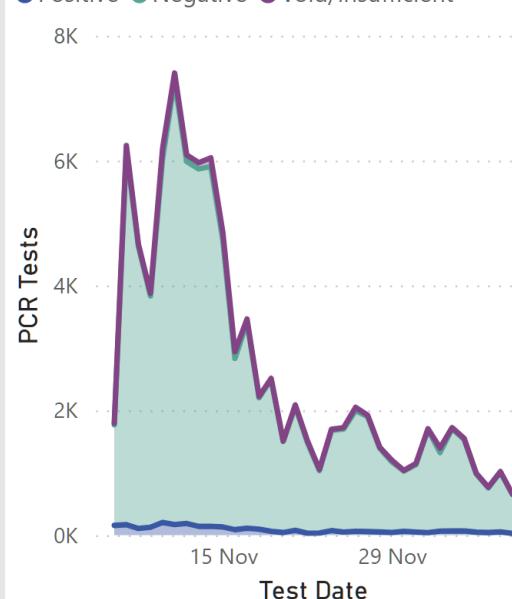
### TESTS OVER TIME: LFT

● Positive ● Negative ● Void/insufficient

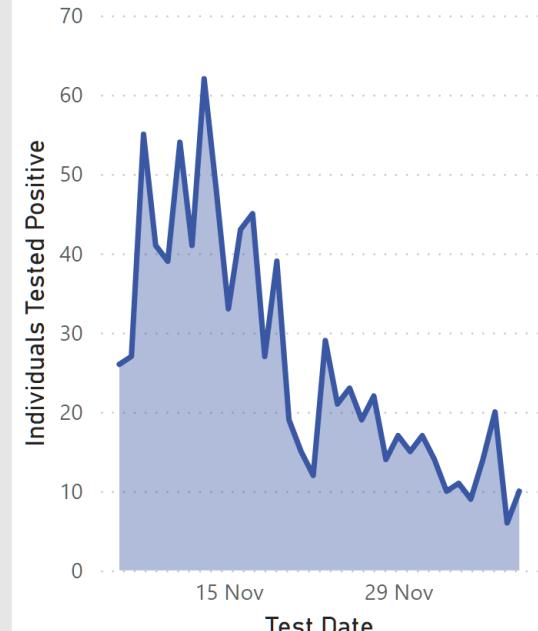


### TESTS OVER TIME: PCR

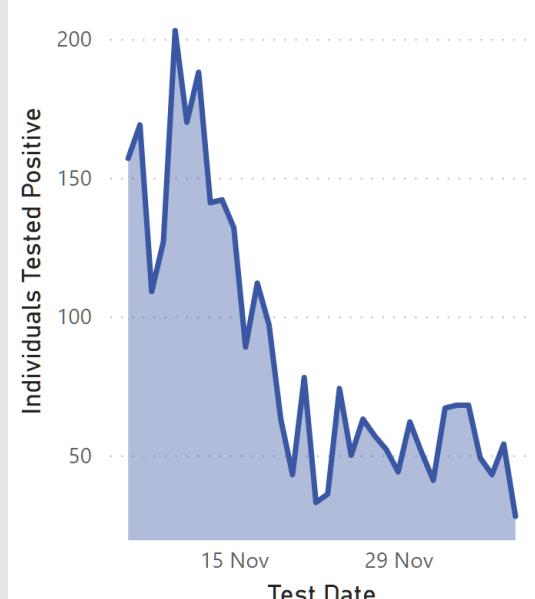
● Positive ● Negative ● Void/insufficient



### CASES OVER TIME: LFT



### CASES OVER TIME: PCR



# Test Demographics: LFT

All Liverpool residents tested at any Pillar 2 test site

**184,596**

Tests Completed (LFT)

**123,247**

Individuals Tested (LFT)

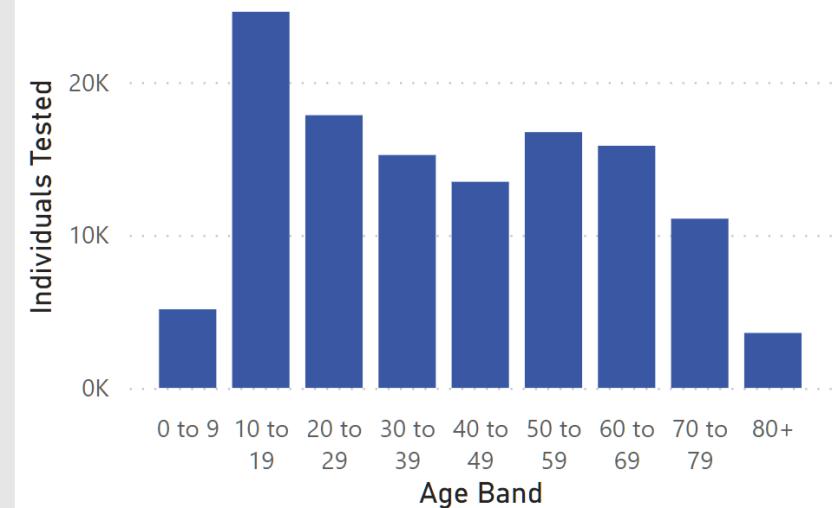
**891**

Individuals Tested Positive (LFT)

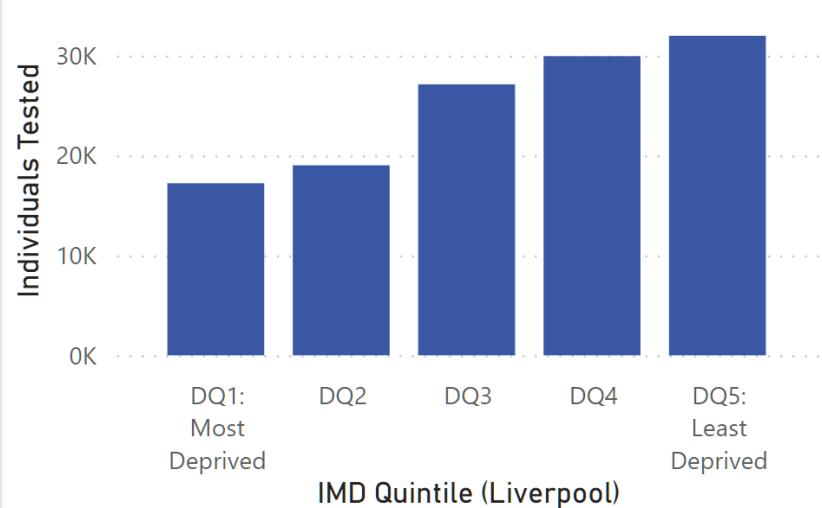
**0.49 %**

Positivity Rate (LFT)

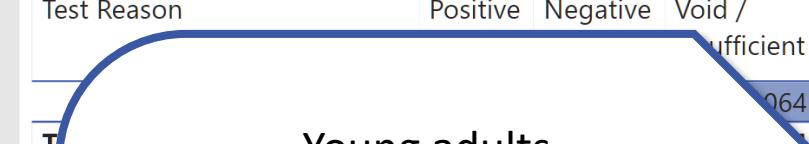
## INDIVIDUALS TESTED BY AGE BAND: LFT



## INDIVIDUALS TESTED BY IMD QUINTILE: LFT



## TEST RESULTS BY REASON FOR TEST: LFT



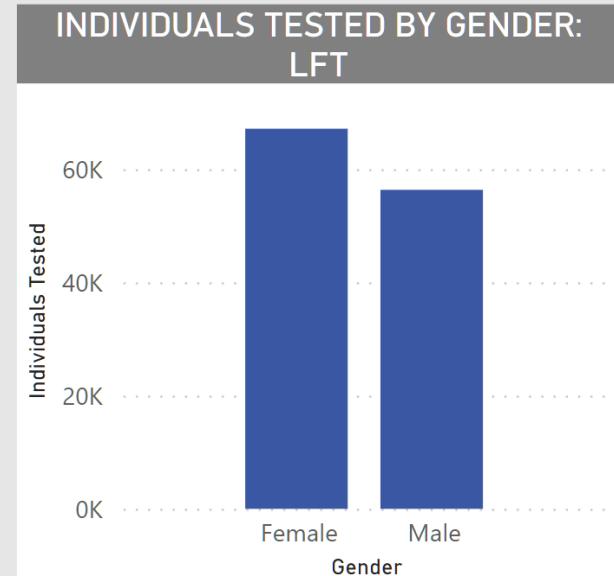
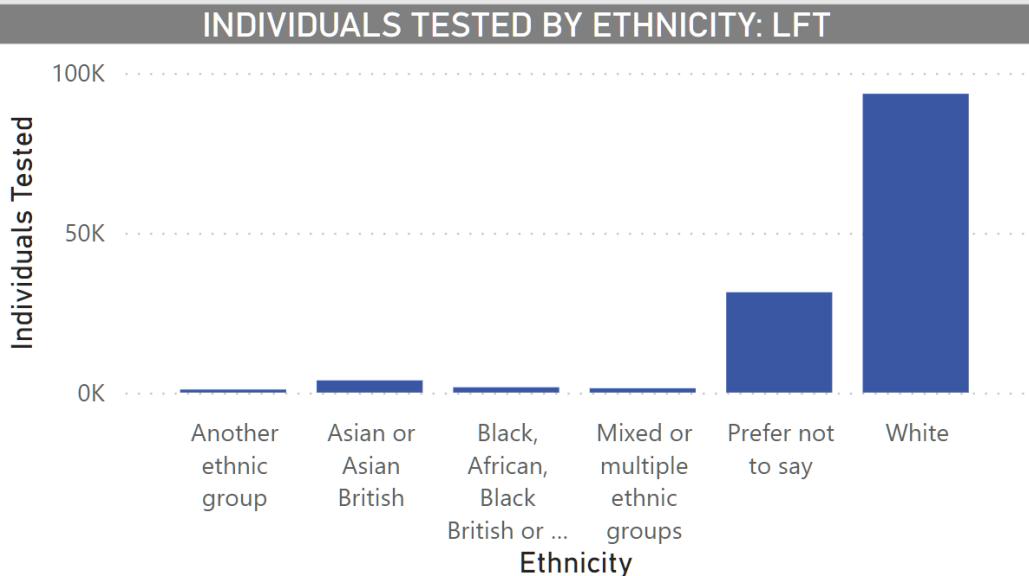
Young adults under-represented (teens boosted by schools)

Males under-represented (46% c.f. 54% female)

Slightly higher (1.14 times) positivity in females

Uptake ~34% in least deprived compared with ~17% in most deprived fifth of the population

BAME populations might be under-represented but 24% did not give ethnicity



# Test Demographics: PCR

All Liverpool residents tested at any Pillar 2 test site

**92,418**

Tests Completed (PCR)

**74,267**

Individuals Tested (PCR)

**2,829**

Individuals Tested Positive (PCR)

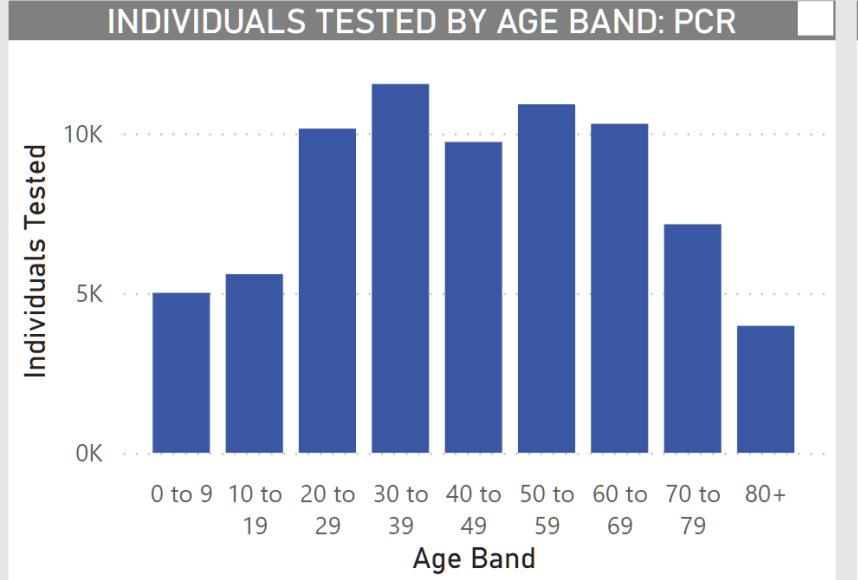
**3.26 %**

Positivity Rate (PCR)

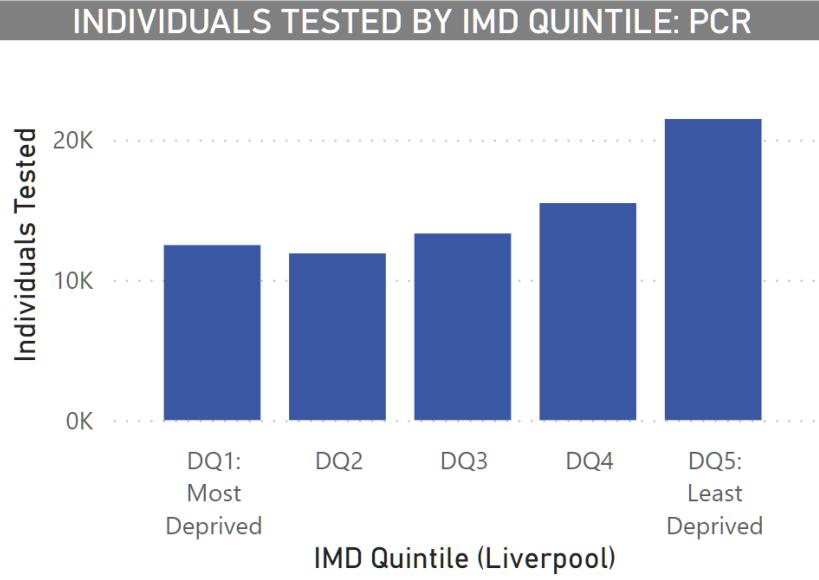
Dates Selected: 06/11/2020 - 09/12/2020

Note: positivity rate calculations do not follow PHE methodology

## INDIVIDUALS TESTED BY AGE BAND: PCR



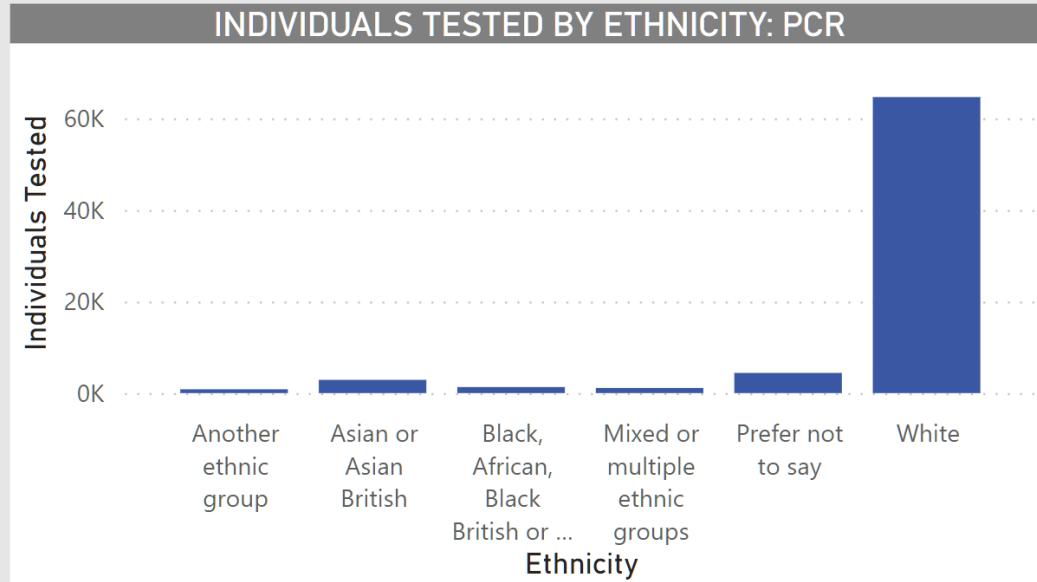
## INDIVIDUALS TESTED BY IMD QUINTILE: PCR



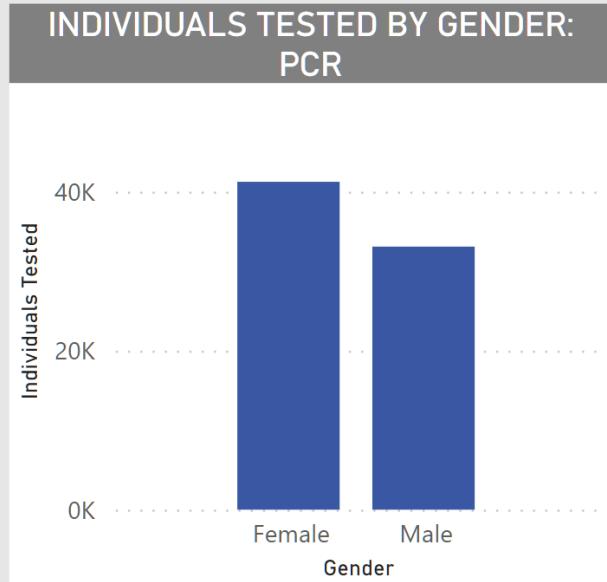
## TEST RESULTS BY REASON FOR TEST: PCR

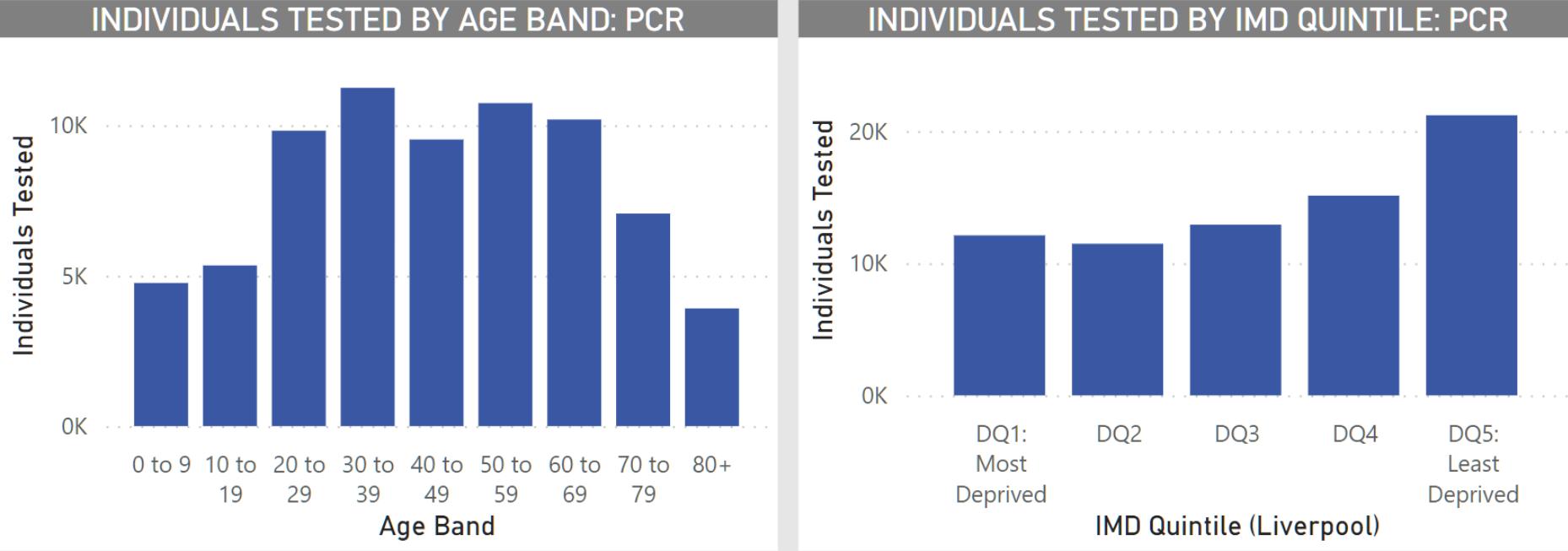
Test Reason	Positive	Negative	Void / insufficient
liverpool-testing	808	34,606	564
home test kit drop	803	39,963	786
symptomatic-citizen	594	4,736	83
symptomatic-essential-worker	302	1,727	18
told-to-order-repeat-test	184	1,625	33
liverpool-merthyr-testing	83	2,007	12
for-symptomatic-household-member	76	559	9
community-testing	48	725	9
local-council-request	35	1,652	30
zoe-symptom-study	26	176	3
ntrg-member	3	35	
I live~ work or study in a lockdown area with a coronavirus outbreak	2	8	
Im an essential worker	1	9	
Other	1		
contact-testing-study	0	24	
I have coronavirus symptoms	0	52	
Ive been in contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus and have since developed s	0	1	
visiting-professional-pilot	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>87,905</b>	<b>1,547</b>

## INDIVIDUALS TESTED BY ETHNICITY: PCR



## INDIVIDUALS TESTED BY GENDER: PCR

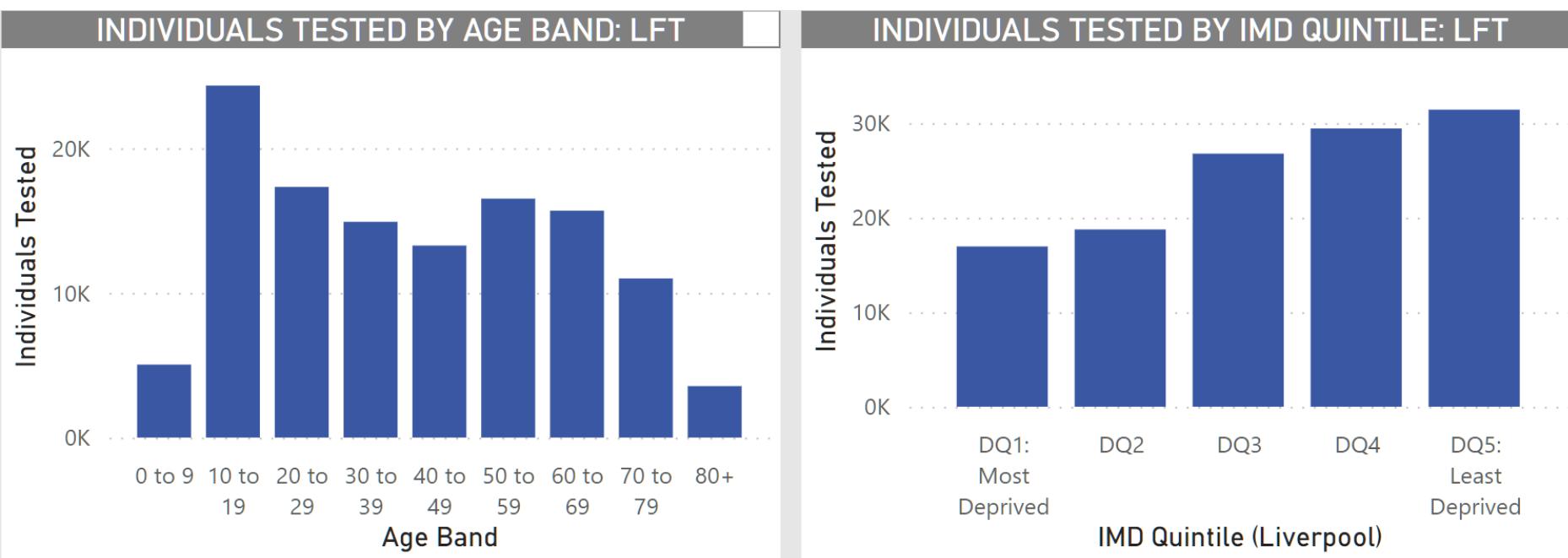




[mostly symptomatic]  
PCR uptake (positivity)

↑ 12.1% (5.2%) most deprived  
↑ 11.8% (4.7%)  
↑ 14.1% (4.4%)  
↑ 14.5% (3.4%)  
↓ 22.4% (3.0%) least deprived

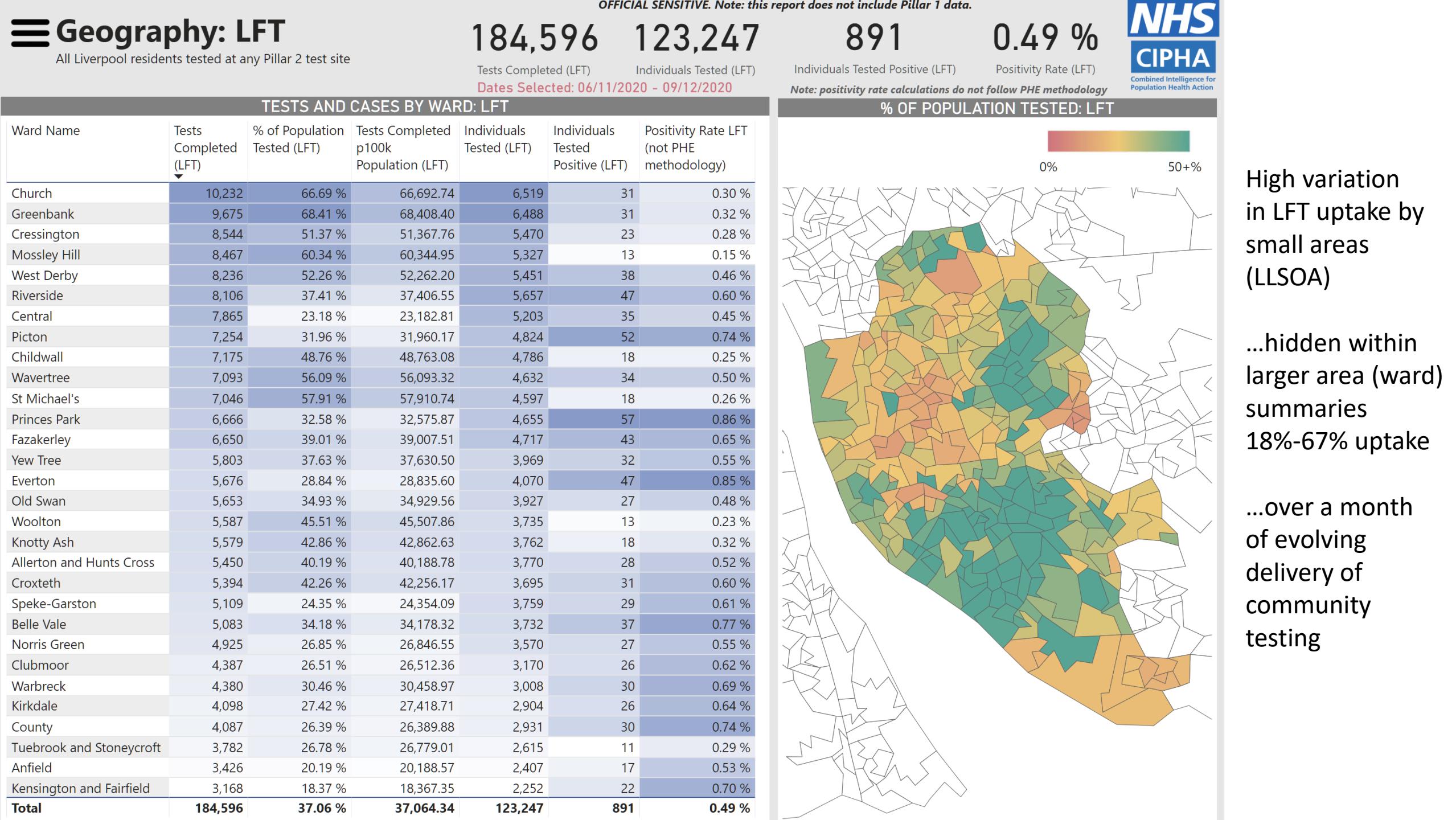
*Higher uptake of PCR in least deprived fifth of areas (using Liverpool quintiles)*



[mostly asymptomatic]  
LFT uptake (positivity)

↑ 16.8% (1.0%) most deprived  
↑ 18.9% (0.9%)  
↑ 28.8% (0.8%)  
↑ 28.2% (0.6%)  
↓ 33.4% (0.5%) least deprived

*Lower uptake of LFT in most deprived two fifths of areas*



 Geography: PCR

All Liverpool residents tested at any Pillar 2 test site

92,418

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE. Note: this report does not include Pillar 1 data.**

74,267

2,829

**3.26 %**

## Tests Completed (PCR)

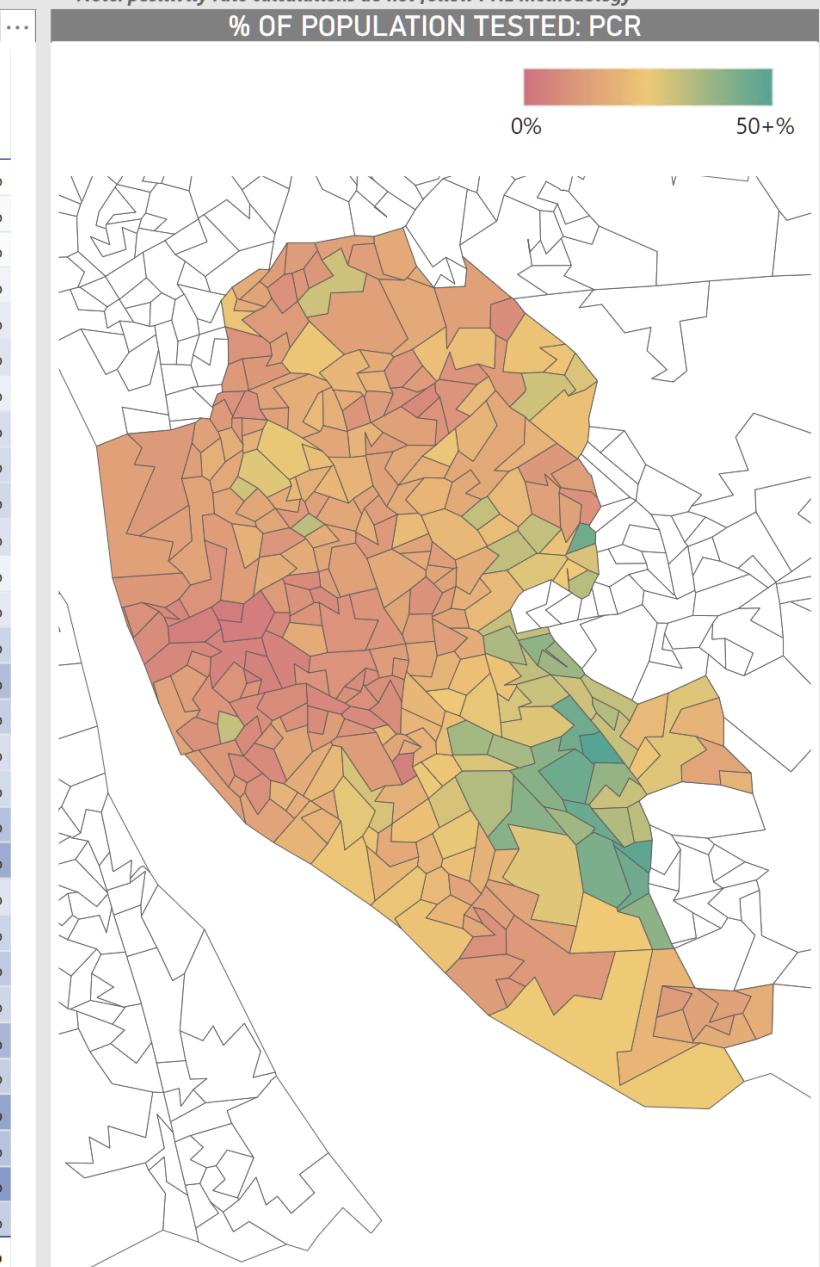
### Individuals Tested (PCR)

Dates Selected: 06/11/2020 - 09/12/2020

## Positivity Rate (PCR)

NHS  
CIPHA

Tests and Cases by Ward: PCR						
Ward Name	Tests Completed (PCR)	% of Population Tested (PCR)	Tests Completed p100k Population (PCR)	Individuals Tested (PCR)	Individuals Tested Positive (PCR)	Positivity Rate PCR (not PHE methodology)
Woolton	5,644	45.97 %	45,972.14	4,556	96	1.82 %
Allerton and Hunts Cross	5,377	39.65 %	39,650.47	4,435	101	2.05 %
Church	4,684	30.53 %	30,530.57	3,768	91	1.98 %
Childwall	4,425	30.07 %	30,073.40	3,838	96	2.31 %
Knotty Ash	3,742	28.75 %	28,749.23	3,072	96	2.67 %
Belle Vale	4,244	28.54 %	28,536.85	3,428	118	2.96 %
Mossley Hill	3,388	24.15 %	24,146.53	2,747	80	2.46 %
Anfield	4,048	23.85 %	23,853.86	2,997	118	3.20 %
Yew Tree	3,429	22.24 %	22,235.91	2,747	107	3.35 %
West Derby	3,442	21.84 %	21,841.49	2,844	111	3.43 %
Croxteth	2,698	21.14 %	21,135.92	2,245	78	3.06 %
St Michael's	2,523	20.74 %	20,736.42	2,062	55	2.35 %
Cressington	3,355	20.17 %	20,170.74	2,761	89	2.75 %
Wavertree	2,508	19.83 %	19,833.93	2,044	85	3.59 %
Clubmoor	2,971	17.95 %	17,954.92	2,360	125	4.52 %
Warbreck	2,421	16.84 %	16,835.88	1,962	88	3.85 %
Speke-Garston	3,459	16.49 %	16,488.70	2,734	104	3.17 %
Tuebrook and Stoneycroft	2,305	16.32 %	16,320.89	1,883	70	3.35 %
Fazakerley	2,691	15.78 %	15,784.84	2,014	110	4.39 %
Everton	3,056	15.53 %	15,525.30	2,474	148	5.25 %
Old Swan	2,471	15.27 %	15,268.17	2,004	71	2.93 %
Kirkdale	2,223	14.87 %	14,873.54	1,785	75	3.61 %
County	2,218	14.32 %	14,321.69	1,741	81	4.04 %
Riverside	3,046	14.06 %	14,056.30	2,323	101	3.51 %
Norris Green	2,445	13.33 %	13,327.88	1,894	109	4.77 %
Greenbank	1,750	12.37 %	12,373.61	1,454	65	3.77 %
Kensington and Fairfield	1,873	10.86 %	10,859.23	1,483	93	5.56 %
Princes Park	1,989	9.72 %	9,719.98	1,642	81	4.32 %
Picton	2,105	9.27 %	9,274.35	1,697	118	5.97 %
Central	1,888	5.57 %	5,565.05	1,650	70	3.85 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,418</b>	<b>18.56 %</b>	<b>18,556.27</b>	<b>74,267</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>3.26 %</b>



PCR pattern  
different to LFT;  
dominated by  
high uptake in

Concentrated in areas with older and more affluent populations

# Individuals Tested Positive

All Liverpool residents tested at any Pillar 2 test site

12/3/2020 to 12/9/2020  
Current week

11/26/2020 to 12/2/2020  
Previous week

**277,014**

**179,018**

**3,508**

**0.49 %**

**3.26 %**

Tests Completed (LFT+PCR)

Individuals Tested (LFT+PCR)

Individuals Tested Positive (LFT+PCR)

LFT Positivity Rate

PCR Positivity Rate

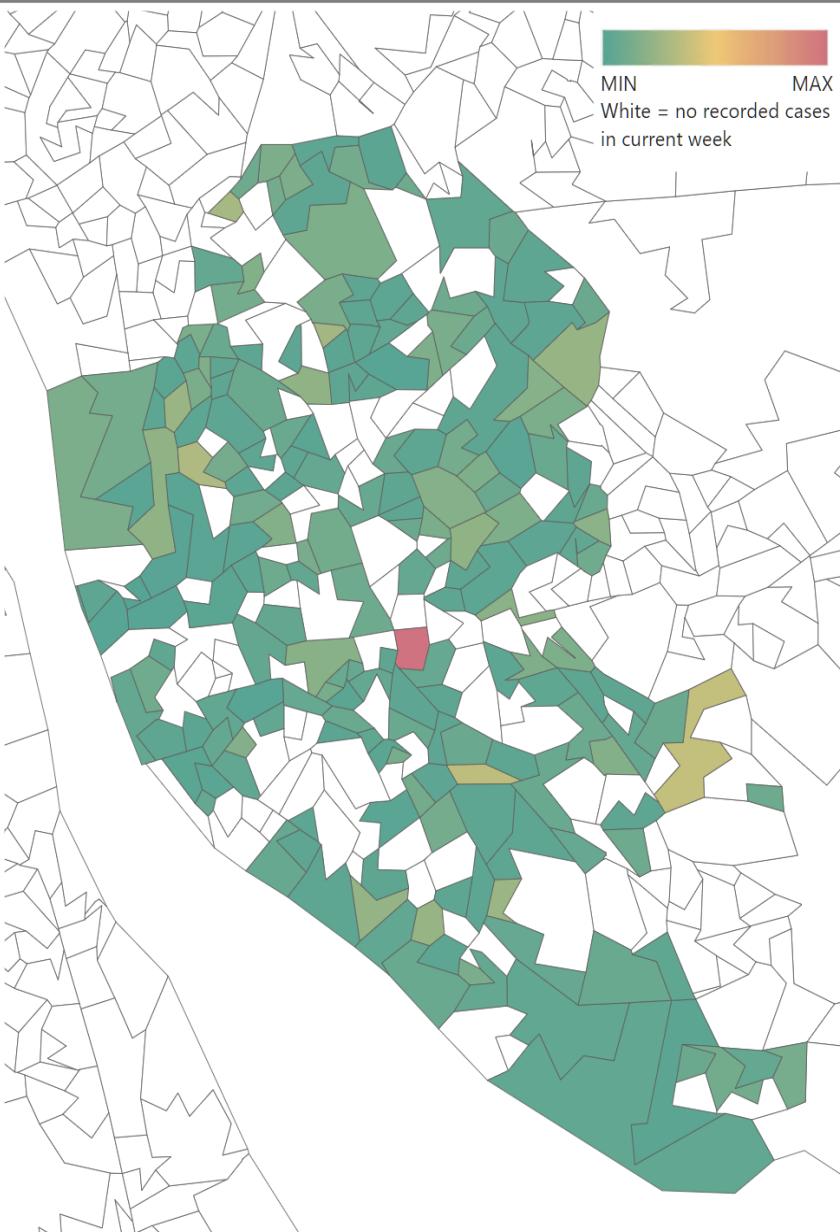
Dates Selected: 06/11/2020 - 09/12/2020

Note: positivity rate calculations do not follow PHE methodology

## INDIVIDUALS TESTED POSITIVE BY WARD

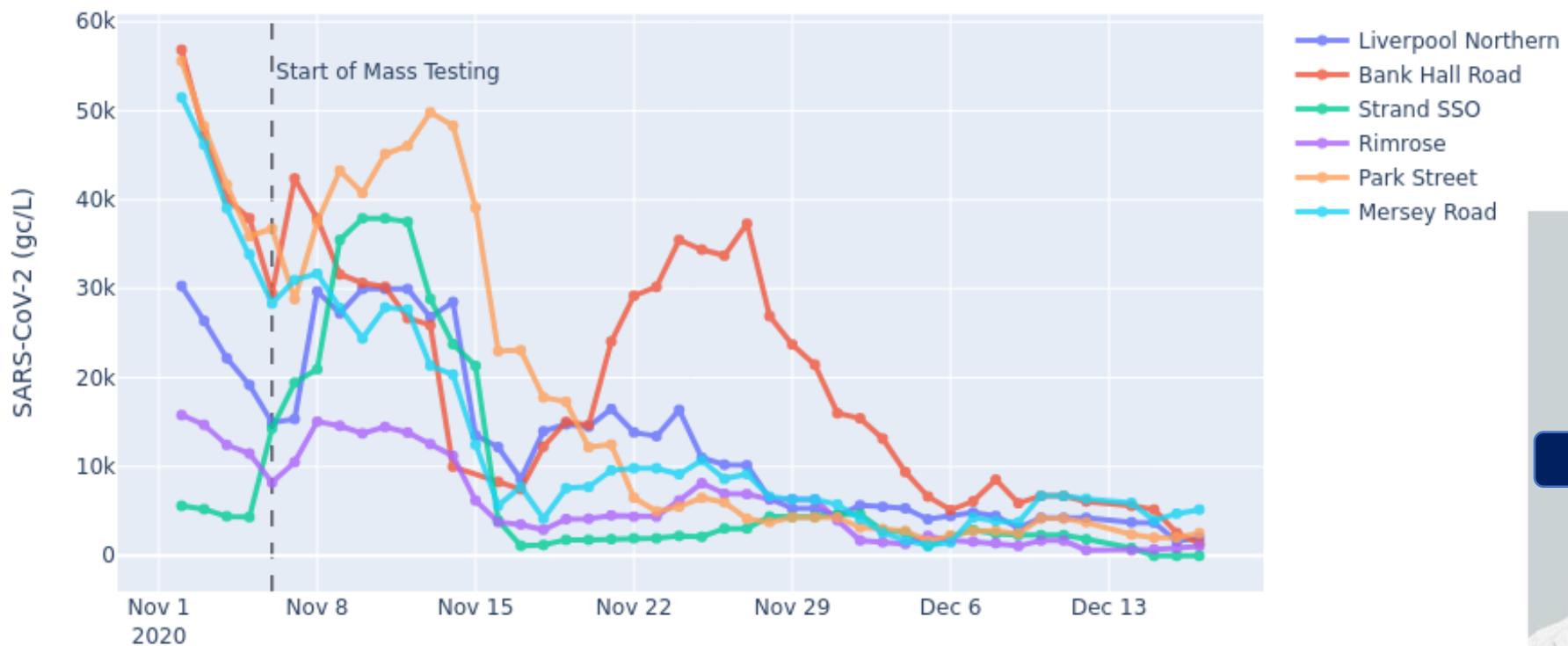
Ward Name	CURRENT WEEK	CURRENT WEEK	CURRENT WEEK	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	DIFFERENCE	DIFFERENCE	DIFFERENCE	DIFFERENCE
	Individuals Tested	Individuals Tested	Individuals Tested									
	Positive (LFT)	Positive (PCR)	Positive (LFT+PCR)	Positive (LFT+PCR)	Positive (LFT)	Positive (PCR)	Positive (LFT+PCR)	Positive (LFT+PCR)	(LFT)	Tested Positive (PCR)	Tested Positive (LFT+PCR)	Tested Positive (LFT+PCR) per 100,000
Allerton and Hunts Cross	3	4	7	51.62		10	10	73.74	-3	-6	-3	-22.12
Anfield	1	7	8	47.14	2	19	21	123.75	-1	-12	-13	-76.61
Belle Vale	3	16	19	127.76	6	10	16	107.58	-3	6	3	20.17
Central		7	7	20.63	2	7	9	26.53	-2	0	-2	-5.90
Childwall	1	4	5	33.98	2	8	10	67.96	-1	-4	-5	-33.98
Church	7	13	20	130.36	3	5	8	52.14	4	8	12	78.22
Clubmoor	2	15	17	102.74	2	12	14	84.61	0	3	3	18.13
County	4	11	15	96.86	2	16	18	116.23	2	-5	-3	-19.37
Cressington	5	17	22	132.27	3	11	14	84.17	2	6	8	48.10
Croxteth	2	8	10	78.34	4	8	12	94.01	-2	0	-2	-15.67
Everton	2	29	31	157.49	9	22	31	157.49	-7	7	0	0.00
Fazakerley	1	18	19	111.45	7	17	24	140.78	-6	1	-5	-29.33
Greenbank	4	4	8	56.57	11	4	15	106.06	-7	0	-7	-49.49
Kensington and Fairfield	2	14	16	92.76	4	14	18	104.36	-2	0	-2	-11.60
Kirkdale	3	14	17	113.74	5	13	18	120.43	-2	1	-1	-6.69
Knotty Ash	6	19	25	192.07	4	7	11	84.51	2	12	14	107.56
Mossley Hill	1	7	8	57.02	2	9	11	78.40	-1	-2	-3	-21.38
Norris Green		19	19	103.57	1	13	14	76.32	-1	6	5	27.26
Old Swan	4	7	11	67.97		6	6	37.07	4	1	5	30.89
Picton	9	16	25	110.15	7	25	32	140.99	2	-9	-7	-30.84
Princes Park		12	12	58.64	8	17	25	122.17	-8	-5	-13	-63.53
Riverside	1	13	14	64.61	4	14	18	83.06	-3	-1	-4	-18.46
Speke-Garston	3	14	17	81.04	3	15	18	85.80	0	-1	-1	-4.77
St Michael's	2	3	5	41.09		8	8	65.75	2	-5	-3	-24.66
Tuebrook and Stoneycroft		7	7	49.56	1	10	11	77.89	-1	-3	-4	-28.32
Warbreck	2	13	15	104.31	7	23	30	208.62	-5	-10	-15	104.31
Wavertree	7	21	28	221.43	4	10	14	110.72	3	11	14	110.72
West Derby	3	15	18	114.22	5	13	18	114.22	-2	2	0	0.00
Woolton	1	10	11	89.60	3	4	7	57.02	-2	6	4	32.58
Yew Tree		15	15	97.27	7	11	18	116.72	-7	4	-3	-19.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>90.55</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>96.18</b>	<b>-39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>-5.62</b>

## INDIVIDUALS TESTED POSITIVE (LFT+PCR) PER 100K - CURRENT WEEK



# Complex wastewater SARS-CoV-2 RNA levels over time

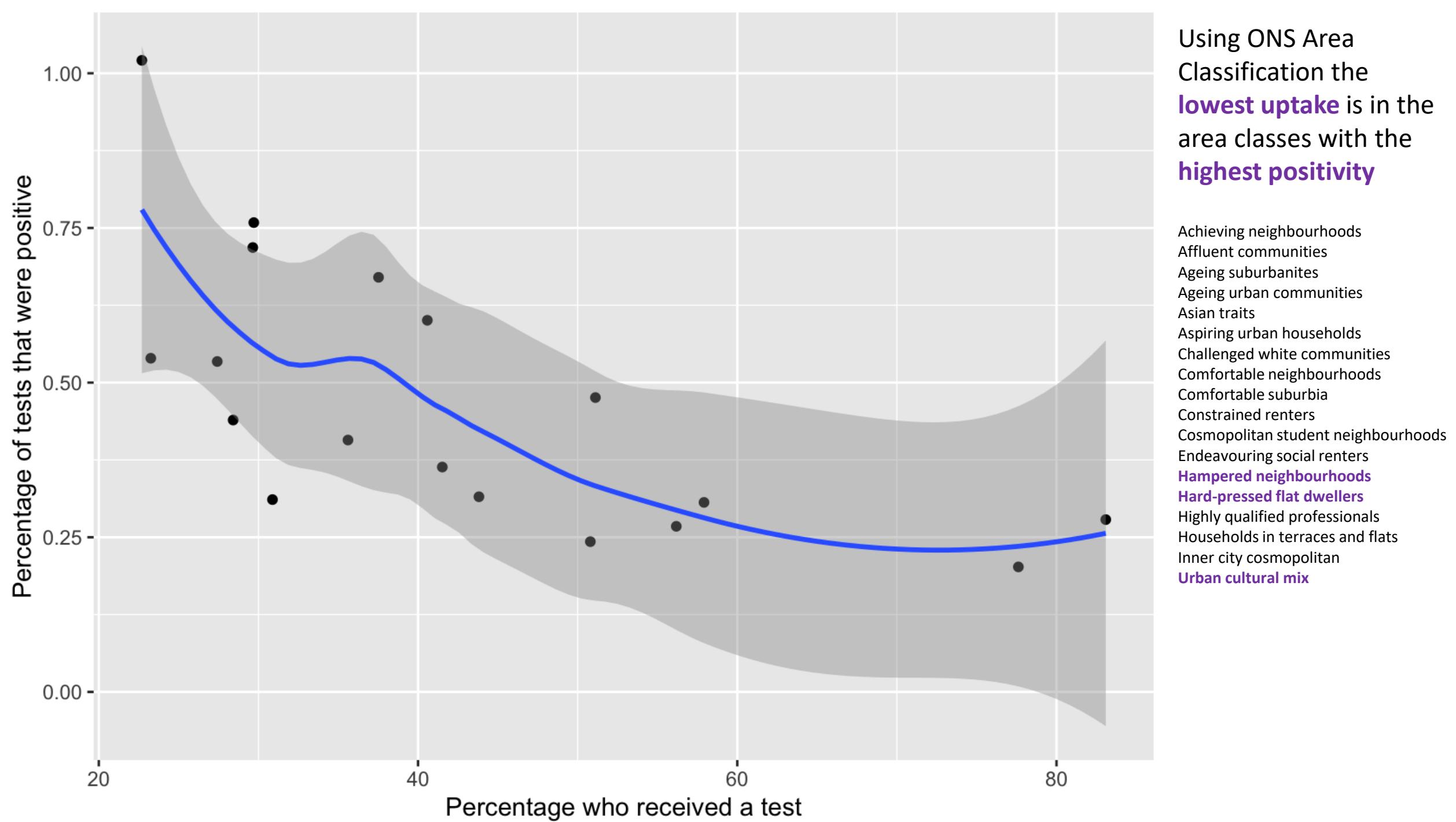
7-days Rol AVG of Liverpool WW time series per subcatchment



Seven day moving average SARS-CoV-2 levels in sub-sewer catchment areas sampled. After lockdown and pilot testing started 6<sup>th</sup> November there was a resurge between the 9th and 12th of November before levels declined across areas.



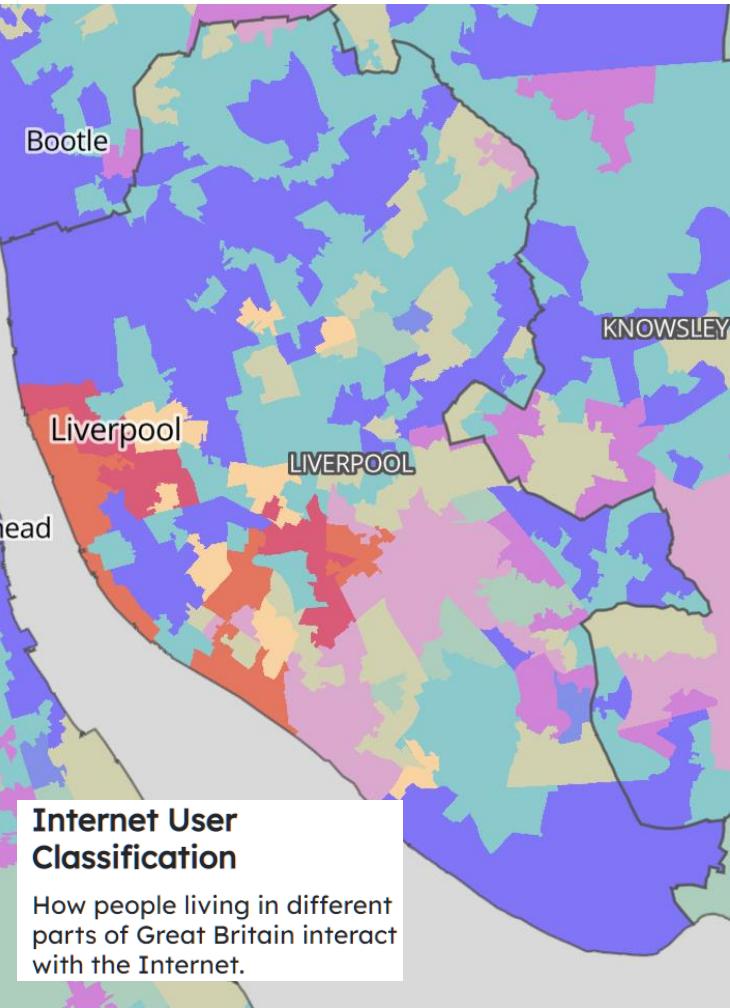
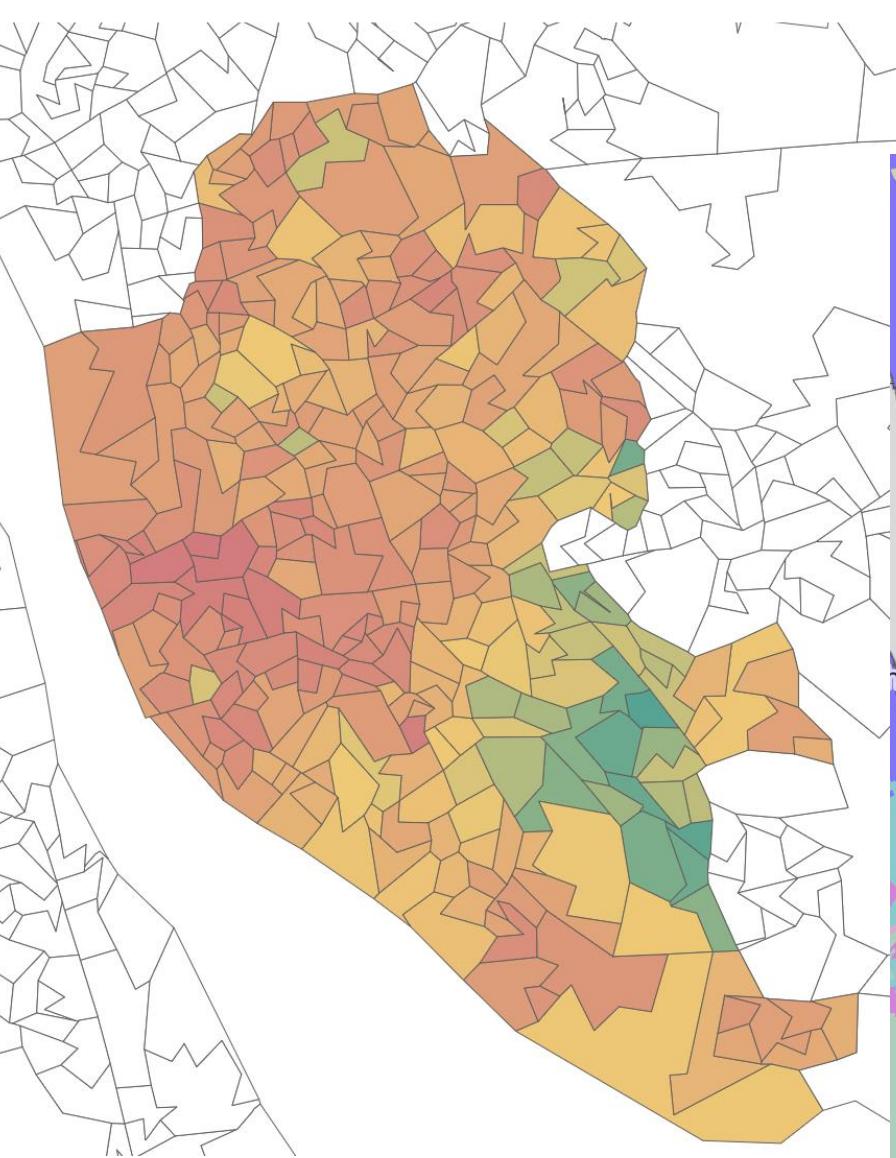
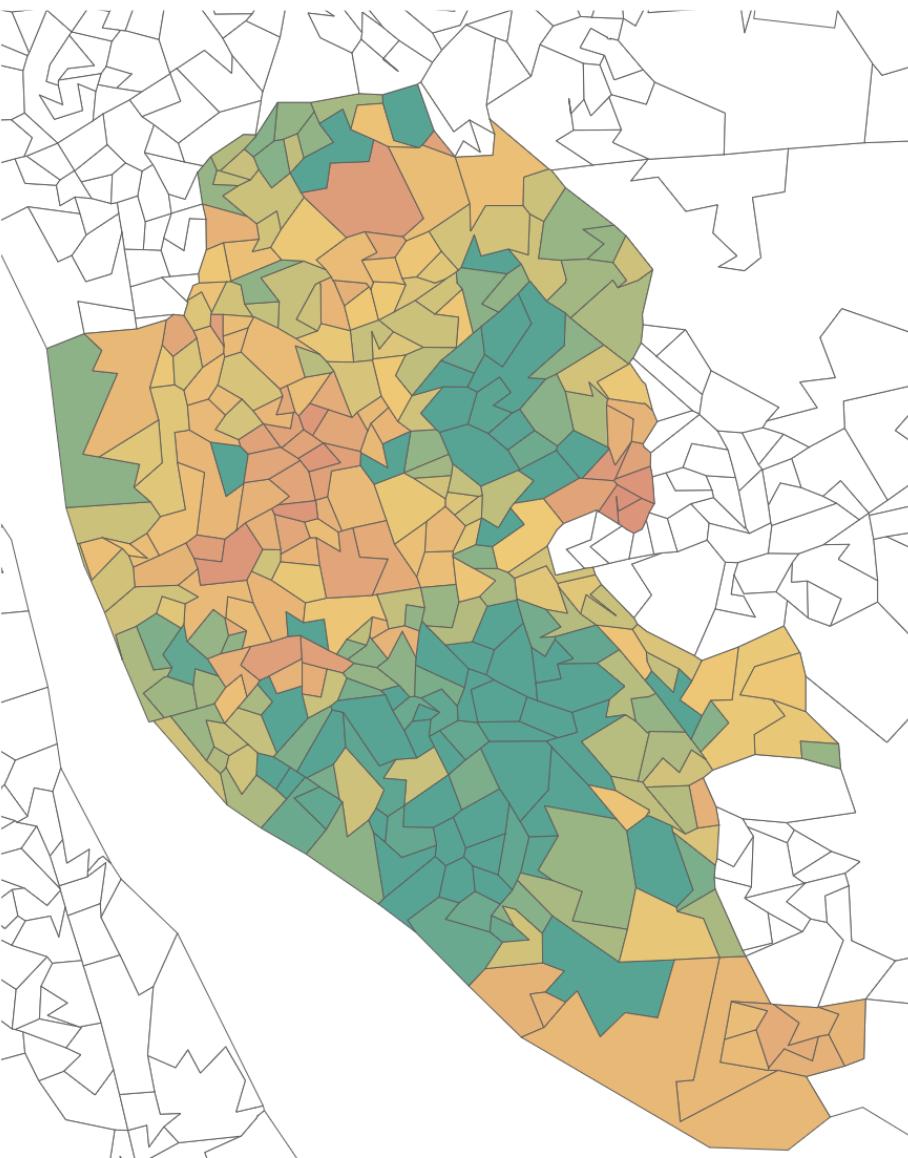
Using ONS Area Classification the **lowest uptake** is in the area classes with the **highest positivity**



% OF POPULATION TESTED: LFT



% OF POPULATION TESTED: PCR



- e-Cultural Creators
- e-Professionals
- e-Veterans
- Youthful Urban Fringe
- e-Rational Utilitarians
- e-Mainstream
- Passive and Uncommitted Users
- Digital Seniors
- Settled Offline Communities
- e-Withdrawn

# Strong effect of digital exclusion – but not inclusion

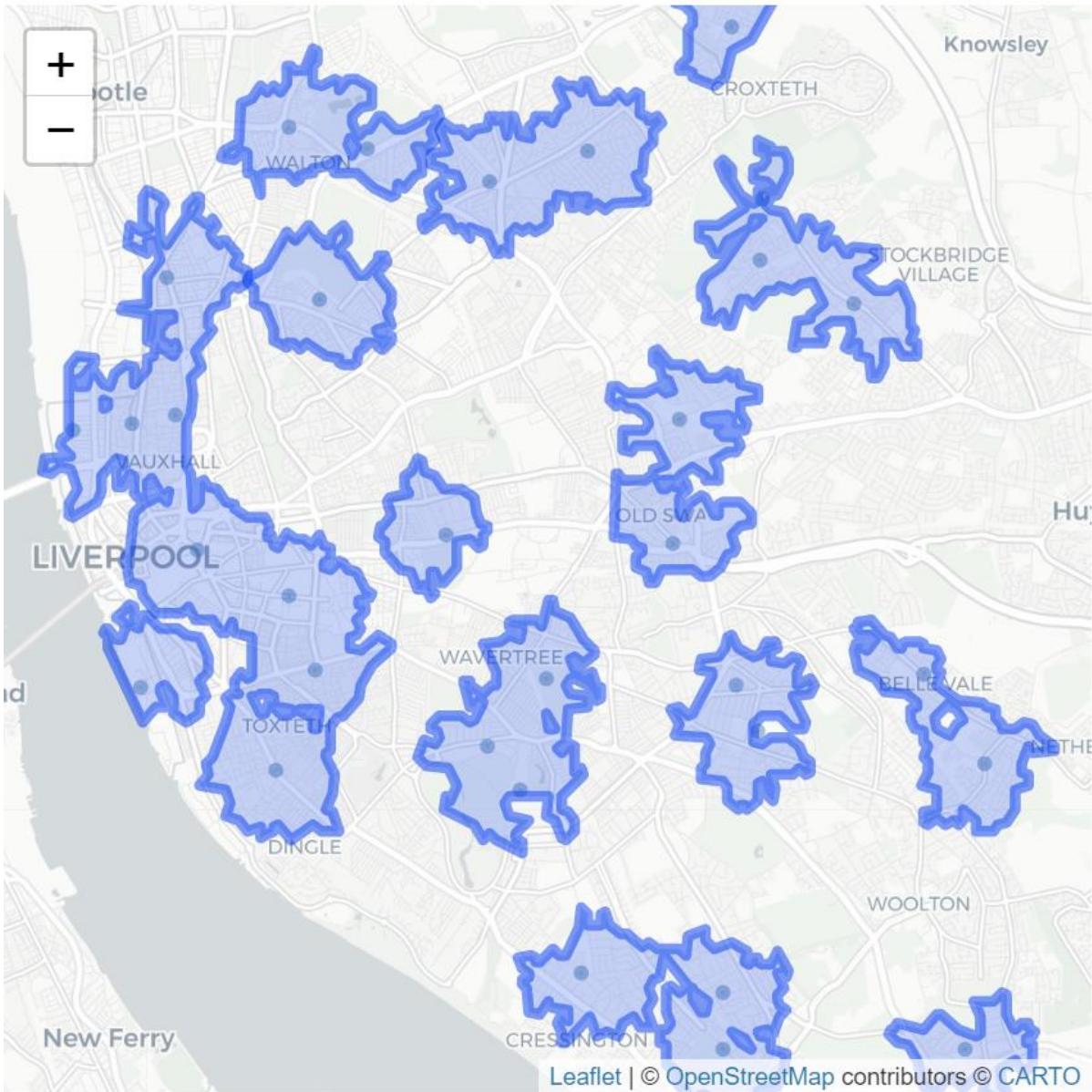
Internet User Class	Population	Tested	Tests	Positive	%Tested	%Positive
e-Cultural Creators	36,317	7,783	10,893	42	21%	0.39%
e-Professionals	28,908	7,825	11,418	46	27%	0.40%
e-Veterans	37,305	15,843	24,616	58	42%	0.24%
Youthful Urban Fringe	28,591	5,378	7,730	43	19%	0.56%
e-Rational Utilitarians	8,716	3,114	4,747	11	36%	0.23%
e-Mainstream	56,822	16,790	24,978	99	30%	0.40%
Passive and Uncommitted Users	127,834	30,793	43,116	235	24%	0.55%
Digital Seniors	8,436	2,179	3,235	16	26%	0.49%
Settled Offline Communities	2,734	814	1,245	4	30%	0.32%
e-Withdrawn	162,379	29,297	39,748	277	18%	0.70%

**Highest uptake and 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest positivity:** ‘e-Veterans’ (affluent groups who confidently use the web for shopping and information seeking).

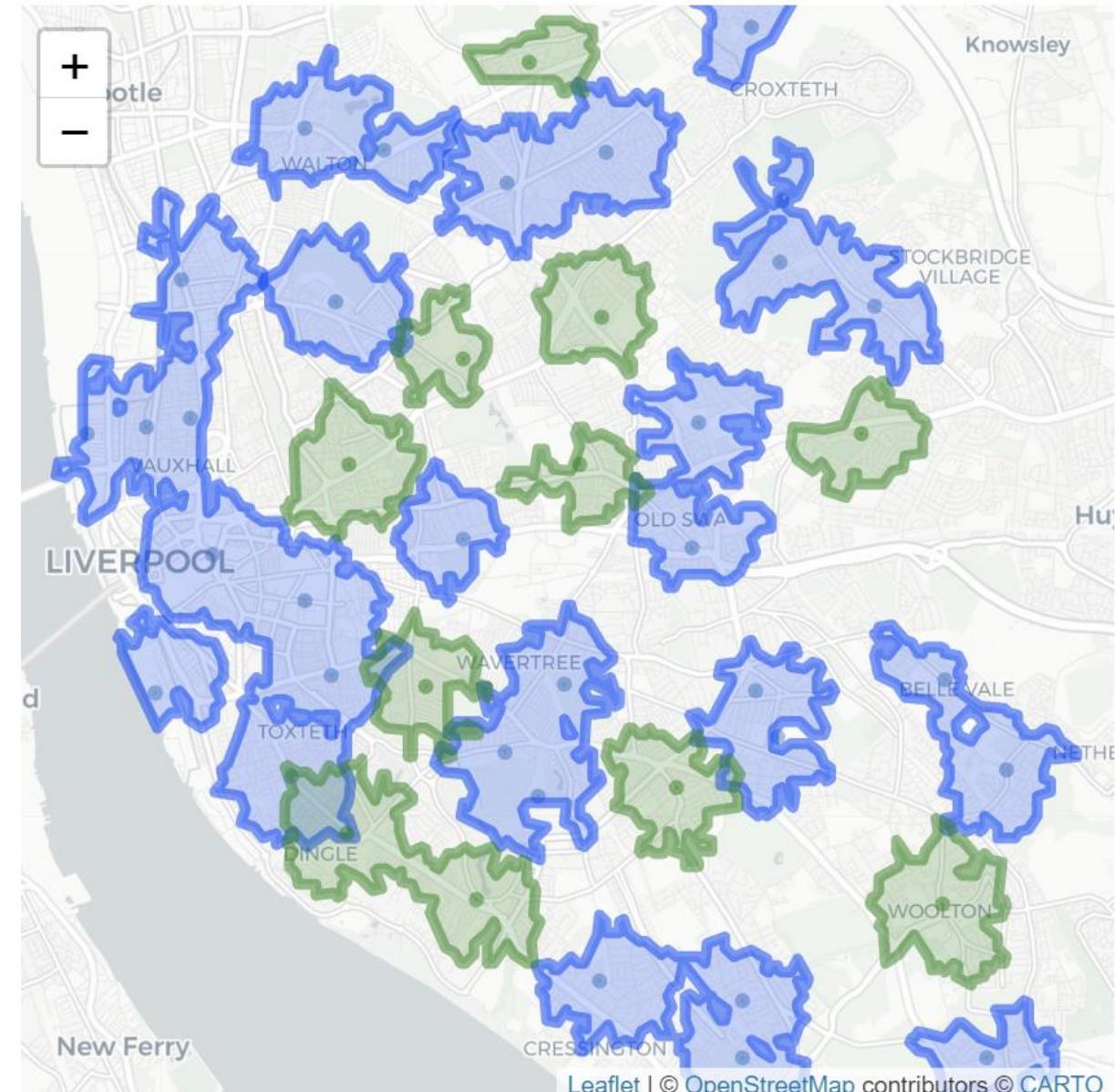
**Low uptake and high positivity despite digital access in ‘Youthful Urban Fringe’** (inner city dwellers with high use of internet especially social media, includes young populations including students and ethnically diverse areas).

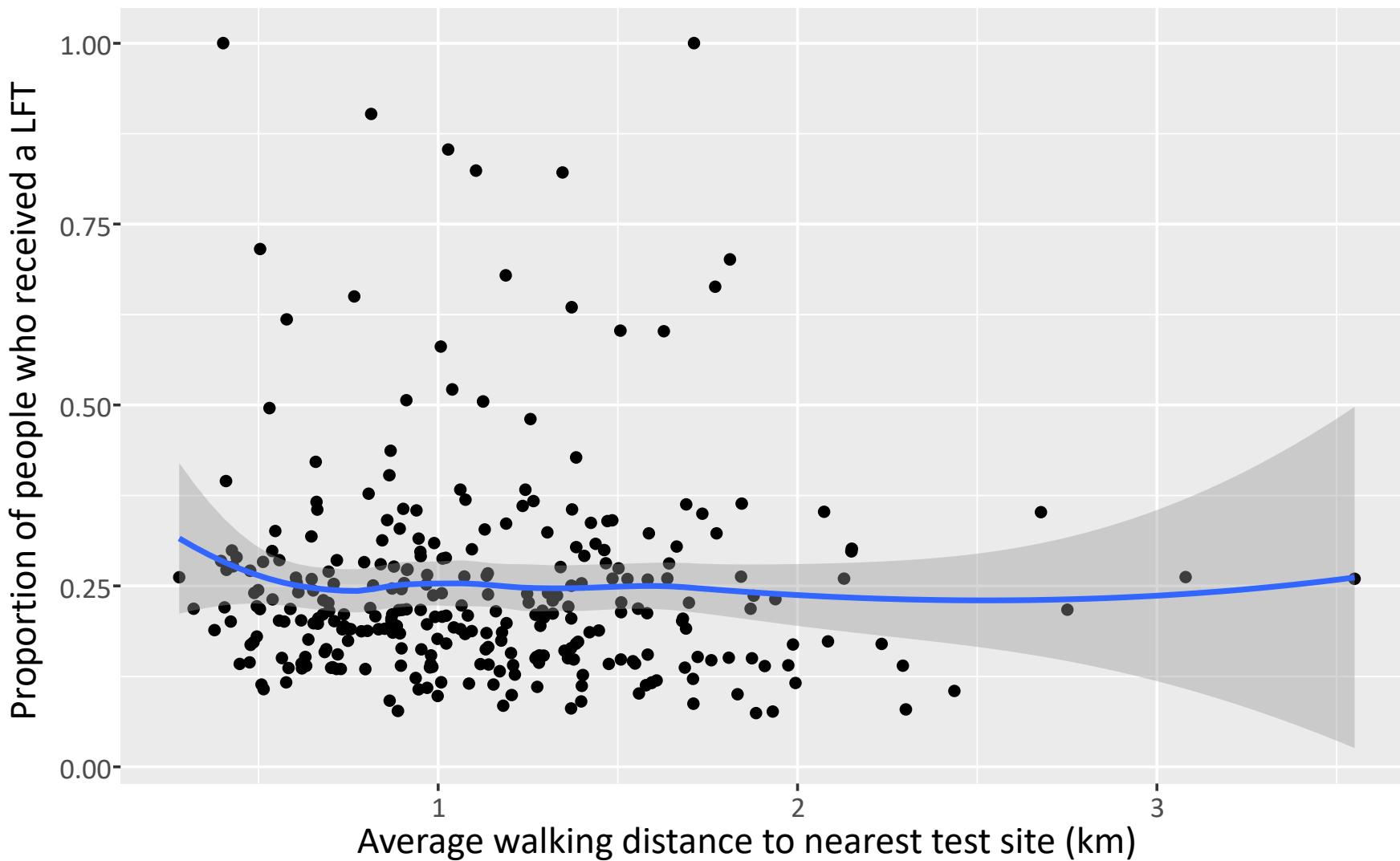
**Lowest uptake and highest positivity:** ‘e-Withdrawn’ (deprived neighbourhoods with little engagement with the internet including poor access to internet technologies or smart mobile phones)

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov: Test Sites vs. 15 min walk



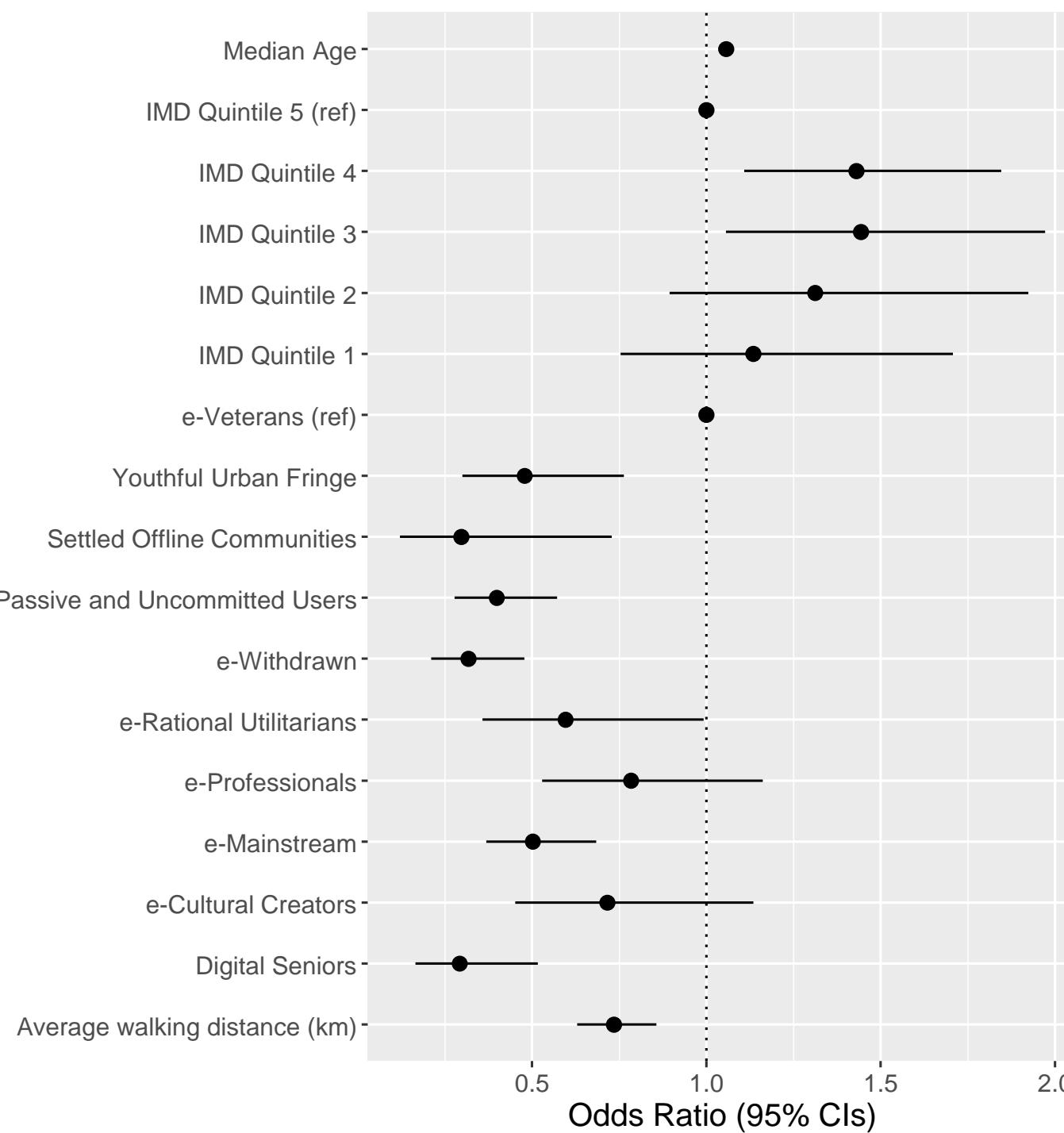
Target Location-Allocation Model (+12 sites): 80% 15 min walk





Average distance was negatively associated with test uptake: LSOAs located further from test sites had lower testing rates.

But the effect is only clear after controlling for age, deprivation and digital exclusion – when for every **1km further** walk distance to nearest test site, test **uptake fell** by **27%** (95%CI: 14% to 37%).



**Internet user classification** of area explained more variability in lateral flow test uptake than did deprivation by LLSOA.

Residents of areas less confident in using Internet technologies were less likely to have received a test.

**Dose-response** effect: test uptake in '**Digital Seniors**' lower compared to '**e-Veterans**'

# Behavioural insights: ONS survey

From ~5k on-line responses out of ~6k responses from 60k households: -

- Participated (75%); intend to (14%); don't intend to (10%); undecided (1%)
- Strong awareness of and positive attitude toward pilot (participating or not)
- Quarter distrust Govt (participating); third distrust Govt (not participating)
- Need to isolate understood by 98% (participating); 89% (not participating)
- Need for Covid-safe behaviours acknowledged by 91% (participating); 83% (not participating)
- Negative test intention: 62% say unlikely to affect behaviour; 23% more exercise; 17% visit shops; 9% visit friends and family; 7% go to work
- Intention to get a regular test: 53%
- Compliance with isolation – a little more leaving of household – no difference in non-household contacts compared with isolation after other testing routes

# Behavioural insights: Social media and focus groups

- Social media analytics (PHE)
  - 11 local newspaper articles; 16 Facebook posts; 3 Twitter sources
  - ~1000 comments (41% neutral; 38% negative; 21% positive)
  - Facilitators: protect community – collective, cohesive action to help each other; return to normality – access to ; positive experiences of testing; social identity – civic pride in Liverpool taking the initiative
  - Barriers: accessibility of the site; risk of transmission; uncertainty; trust in test; concerns over DNA capture; concerns over Government interference; confusion with vaccine and distrust in it
- Focus groups
  - Good intention of testing programme understood
  - Areas for improving booking and test centre experience identified
  - Trust in test dropping with media debates on test accuracy – disincentive
  - General misunderstanding of test accuracy e.g., thinking PCR detects all cases
  - Test resulting in children off school is a major barrier
  - Low trust in vaccine

# Attendance survey: motivations and barriers

- 242 on-line responses 30<sup>th</sup> Nov to 5<sup>th</sup> Dec
- Why did you decide to come?
  - Preventing spread, controlling the outbreak, getting out of Tier 3/lockdown, **protect others**, or reassurance of being safe (37%)
  - Support or help the **community** (31%)
  - Requirement or condition for **employment** (17%)
  - Protect **family** and **friends** (15%)
  - Worried about not having symptoms but still being a **carrier** of the virus (14%)
- Did anything put you off going for a test?
  - No (68%)
  - Yes
    - **Inconvenient** or **unsupported** (13%): transport, track and trace, isolation (support)
    - Fear of infection (8%)
    - Pain or intrusion of test (2%)

# Attendance survey: intentions after test result

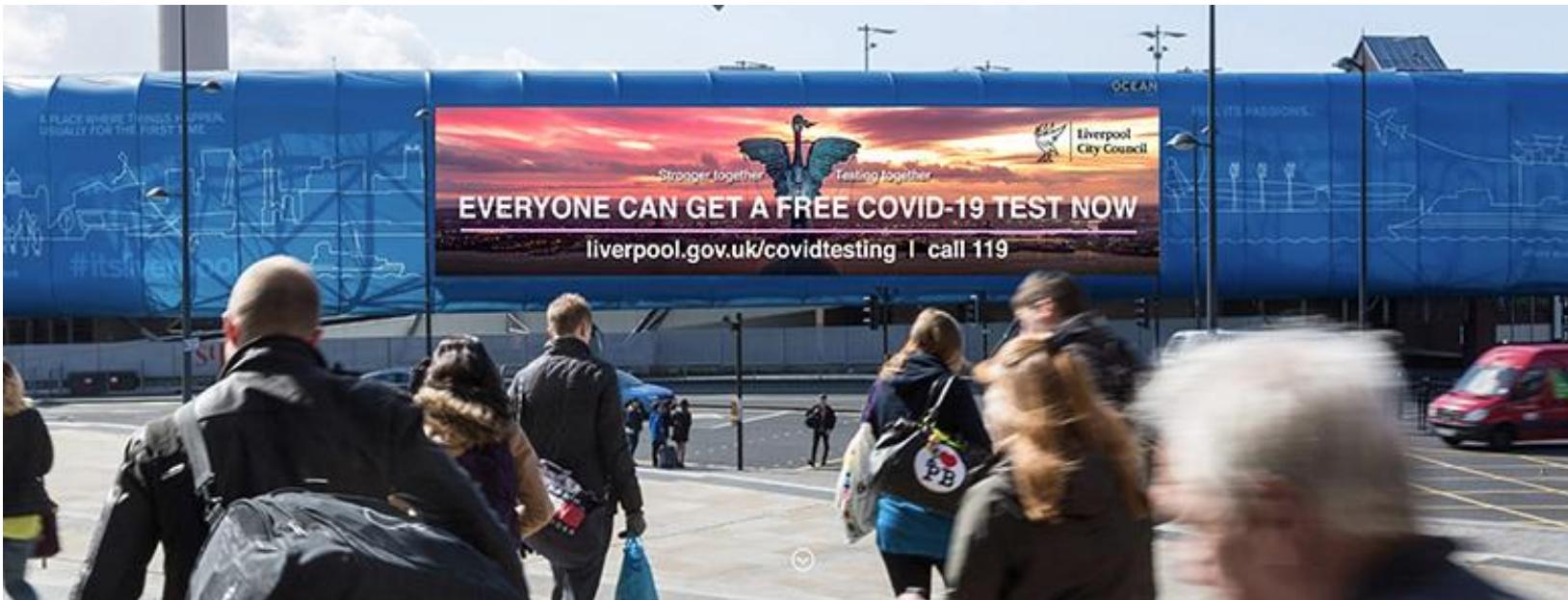
- Would you come back: 99% yes
- After positive test result
  - Self-isolate and **stay at home** (85%)
  - Go for another test to **confirm** the result (11%)
  - Follow the latest **guidance** (19%)
  - Notify recent **contacts** (10%)
  - Work from home (4%)
  - Notify employer (4%)
  - Inform NHS Track and Trace (4%)
  - Ask household to isolate (3%)
  - Negative emotional response (2%)
- After a **negative test result**
  - Continue to follow **guidance** (49%)
  - No change: **carry on** as normal (25%)
  - Get **tested again** (19%)
  - More confident: feel safer (4%)
  - Remain cautious/safe (4%)
  - No response (5%)

# Conclusions

1. Despite lower-than-expected test sensitivity the time and scale gained from a low-cost, rapid, no-lab test is useful
2. Mass testing is not feasible
3. Targeted, agile, intelligence-led SMART framework has been adopted
  - a. Test-to-protect (vulnerable settings)
  - b. Test-to-release (from quarantine)
  - c. Test-to-enable (abeyance of restrictions affecting health, social fabric and economy)
4. Digitally excluded, deprived, (young adult) males are hard to reach
5. Adequate support in isolation is a barrier that is rising as restrictions lift
6. Locally-driven communications, social marketing and tackling misinformation are key enablers
7. Complex public health (not just testing) intervention, which, if executed well, can help coordinate testing and vaccination as a system

# Further information

- These are draft, interim findings subject to change and confirmation
- Evaluation framework available [here](#)
- Enquiries to [buchan@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:buchan@liverpool.ac.uk)



**Let's Get Life Going Again**

#LetsGetTested

If you live or work in Liverpool please go for a free COVID-19 test, even if you don't have symptoms. It only takes a few minutes.

The more of us that get tested, the quicker we can stop the spread and get back to doing the things we enjoy.

**For people with NO SYMPTOMS**

There are several testing sites across the city. There is no need for an appointment. For information on the sites including a map which shows you how busy they are visit [liverpool.gov.uk/testing](http://liverpool.gov.uk/testing)

If you can't get to a testing site you can request a postal testing KIT by ringing 119.

**For people WITH SYMPTOMS**

You can book a test via [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119. You can attend the main testing centres listed on [liverpool.gov.uk/testing](http://liverpool.gov.uk/testing).

