



Greater Manchester Weekly Winter Stakeholder Briefing

29th February 2024 – Issue 14

This weekly briefing is intended to update stakeholders on how services in Greater Manchester are performing and how we work together to manage demand and provide care and support to the public.

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Media statement

Mark Fisher, chief executive of NHS Greater Manchester

“I want to thank the public and staff from across all health and care services for their support over the last period of industrial action and reaffirm that we would like to see a resolution to the ongoing pay dispute soon. Colleagues in all care settings have worked incredibly hard to keep people safe during the strikes and the public have responded to our advice. As ever, if you are in doubt about which service you should use, contact 111 online and they will inform you of the best place to go.

“Looking ahead, Easter arrives earlier than usual this year. People should give themselves time for their repeat prescriptions to be processed especially if they may need a review ahead of a prescription being reissued and travelling away from home for the Bank Holidays.

“Lastly, a reminder that lots of work is underway to ensure children and others are fully vaccinated against measles. Measles can be a serious infection that can lead to children being unwell and in hospital, so I would strongly urge and encourage all parents and carers to make sure their children are fully vaccinated. Measles spreads very easily but is preventable and you can book a free, quick appointment at your GP practice.*”

*see further information.

Weekly narrative

Attendances are reduced when compared to previous weeks, however several Trusts have high numbers in their emergency departments. Bed occupancy levels remain high. Primary and community services are busy with high levels of demand and pressure being felt in services. We are working to get key messages and support out to our primary care colleagues and other health and care professionals in relation to measles.

Primary care data

There are approximately 1,800 primary care providers, with a workforce of around 22,000.

- ✚ Dentistry – of 236 practices reporting, 31% of dental practices are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 19% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ General practice - of 277 practices reporting, 29% of GP practices are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 1% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Optometry - of 86 practices reporting, 7% of optical sites are feeling a significant or very



significant increase in demand, with a further 2% of practices facing extreme demand.

- ✚ Pharmacy – of 132 pharmacies reporting, 25% of sites are feeling significantly challenged and 5% are feeling challenged but coping.

Note, work is underway to encourage more practices to use the pulse check so that support can be provided where appropriate.

Urgent and emergency care data

NHS England publish a weekly online report each Thursday showing verified data across provider organisations including all hospital trusts. You can access the latest urgent and emergency care 'sit rep' here: [Statistics » Urgent and Emergency Care Daily Situation Reports 2023-24 \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/statistics/urgent-and-emergency-care-daily-situation-reports-2023-24).

- ✚ For the week 19th February to 25th February 2024 there were 25,643 attendances; of which type 1 attendances were 18,342. Attendances are lower than the previous reporting period including for Type 1.
- ✚ Hospital bed occupancy across Greater Manchester acute trusts has been on average for the period 91.6%, with the peak at 92.3%.
- ✚ Paediatric services remain challenged in relation to bed occupancy although has seen variation over this period compared to previous reporting period.
- ✚ Attendances at emergency departments for mental health conditions have remained stable however the system is significantly constrained by a lack of mental health bed capacity in Greater Manchester, as well as nationally.
- ✚ Ambulance activity has been high with 4,497 ambulances attending Greater Manchester hospitals which is higher than last reporting period.
- ✚ Definitions on types of attendance can be found using this [link](#).

Hospital discharge data

The discharge figures are a snapshot in time provided for the weekly brief to illustrate both demand and pressure. These figures will be shared weekly.

- ✚ There were 953 people medically fit for discharge from acute trusts as of 28th February.
- ✚ This week (22nd February to 28th February) there were 726 admissions to hospital across Greater Manchester and 825 discharges.

Discharge data may reflect variation in average length of stay per bed and discharge location.



Useful information

- ✚ The MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine is given as part of the routine NHS schedule of childhood vaccines:
 - **1st dose** just after the child's first birthday and
 - **2nd dose** at 3 years 4 months and certainly before children start school full time.

- ✚ Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. People in certain groups, including babies, pregnant women, and people with weakened immunity, are at increased risk of complications from measles. It's important to remember that measles is not just a childhood illness and it's never too late to have the vaccine.

- ✚ Symptoms of measles appear 7-10 days after contact with the virus and include:
 - cold-like symptoms such as runny or blocked nose, sneezing and cough
 - red, sore, watery eyes
 - high temperature (fever), which may reach around 40°C / 104°F
 - a non-itchy, red-brown rash usually appears 3-5 days later (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body), spots may be raised and join to form blotchy patches – which may be harder to see on darker skin tones
 - small white spots may appear inside cheeks and the back of lips (for a few days)

- ✚ If you or a family member develops any symptoms of measles, contact your GP by phone. Please do not go to your GP, walk-in centre, or any other healthcare setting without calling ahead, as measles is very infectious.

- ✚ **Learn to restart a heart:** if you are with somebody who has a cardiac arrest, there are a few vital minutes to save them – knowing what to do can mean the difference between life and death. Follow this website link to North West Ambulance Service's get involved page and view their important information: [Learn to restart a heart - NWS - North West Ambulance Service](#).