

Understanding the Changing Age  
Distribution of Cases of COVID-19 in  
Manchester

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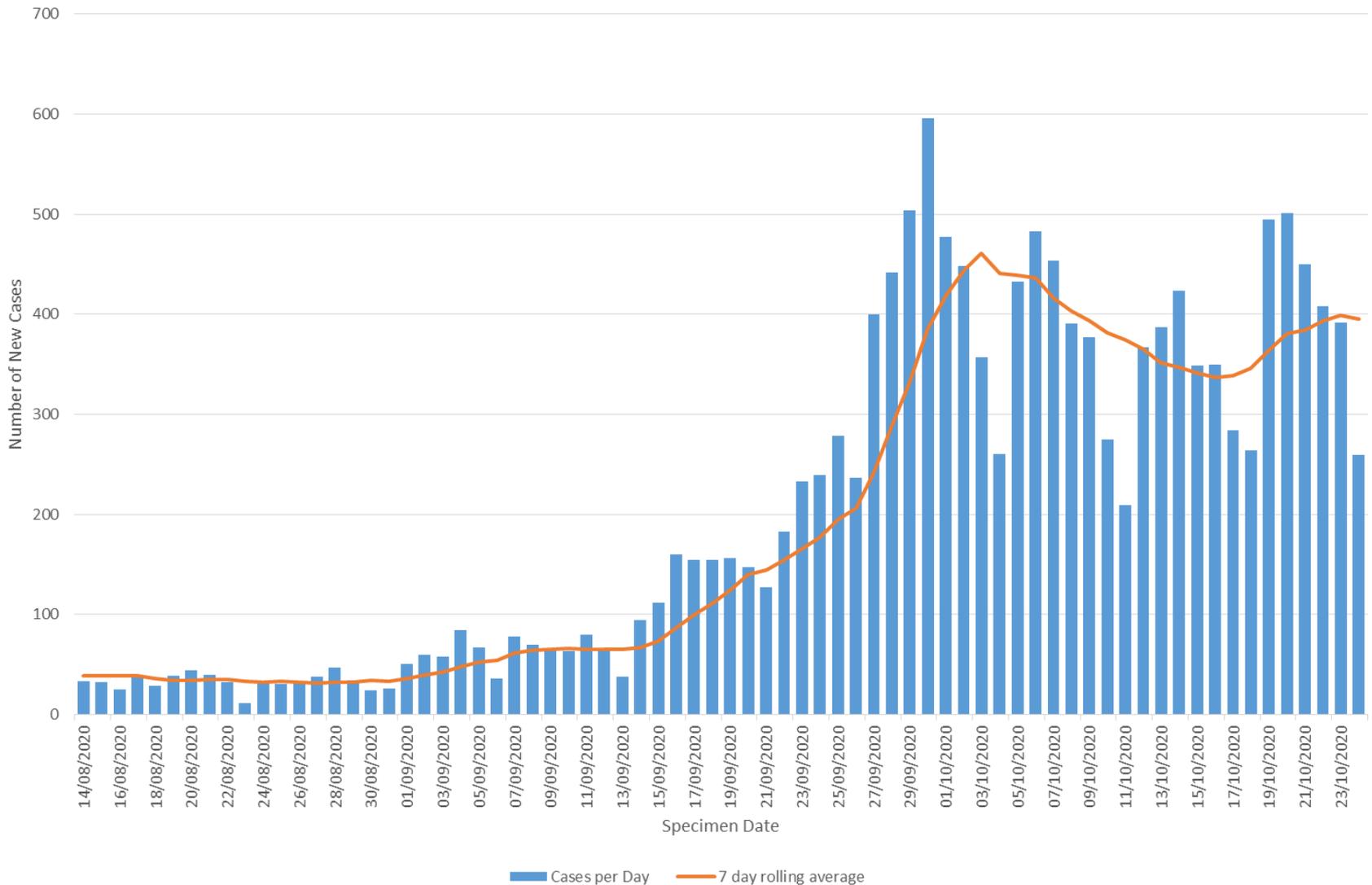
Manchester Health Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

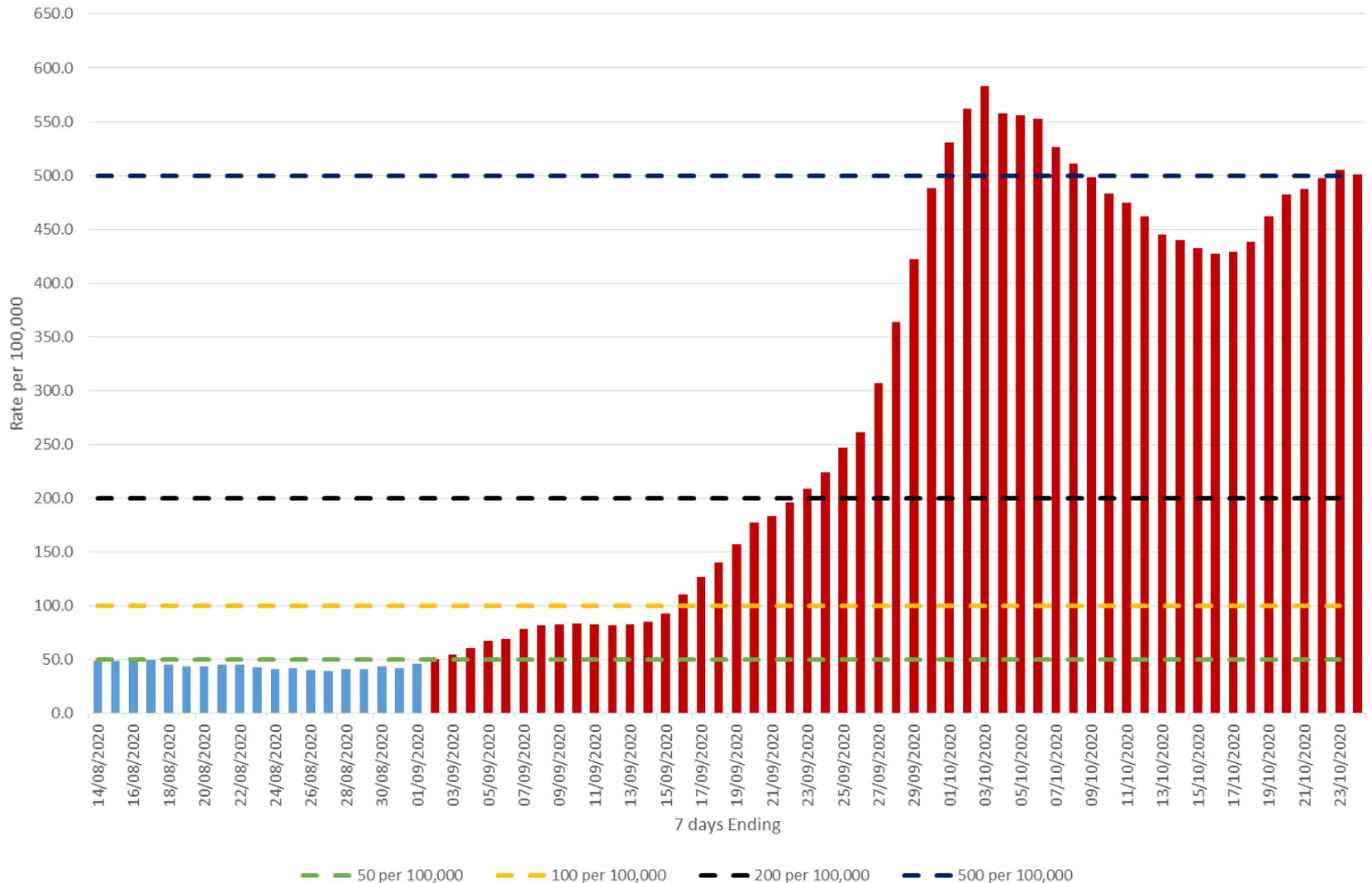
# Key messages

- A focus on the overall rate of COVID-19 (all ages) may mask changes in the age distribution of new cases of the virus within the population
- Steep increases in the rate between middle of September and beginning of October were largely driven by a rise in the number of cases in higher education age group (17-21 years) linked to outbreaks in student accommodation settings
- As the number of cases in 17-21 year olds fall, increases in other age groups are becoming more visible
- Recent data highlights increase in cases in secondary school age children (12-16 years), mid-late working age (40-49 and 50-64 years) and older people (60 years and over)
- The expansion in the availability of testing in early May means that it can be difficult to compare the patterns of infection in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> waves of the pandemic

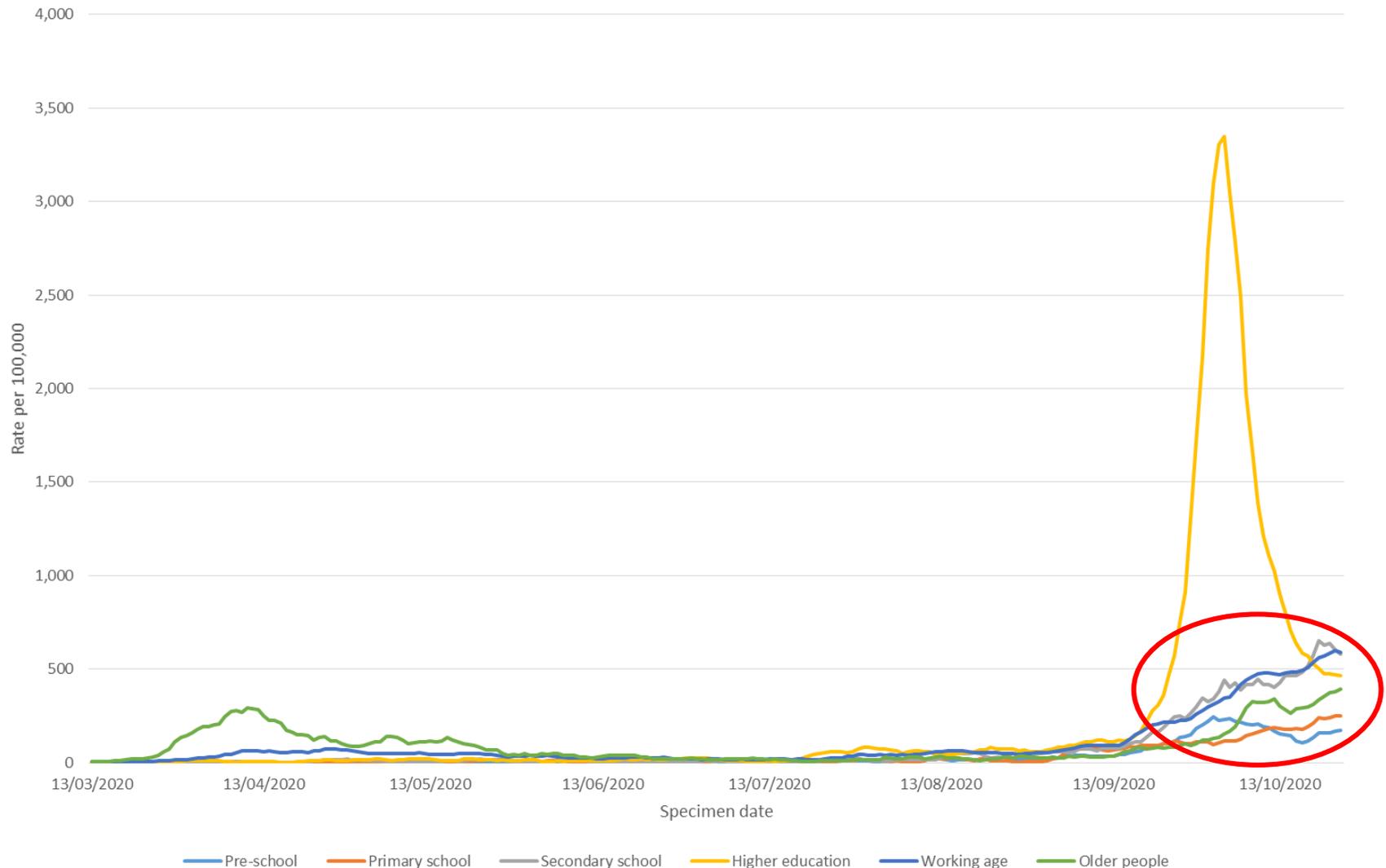
Average daily number of new cases of COVID-19 rose rapidly in last two weeks of September reaching a peak on 3 October. Numbers have subsequently fallen but there is no evidence of a drop to levels seen in early September.



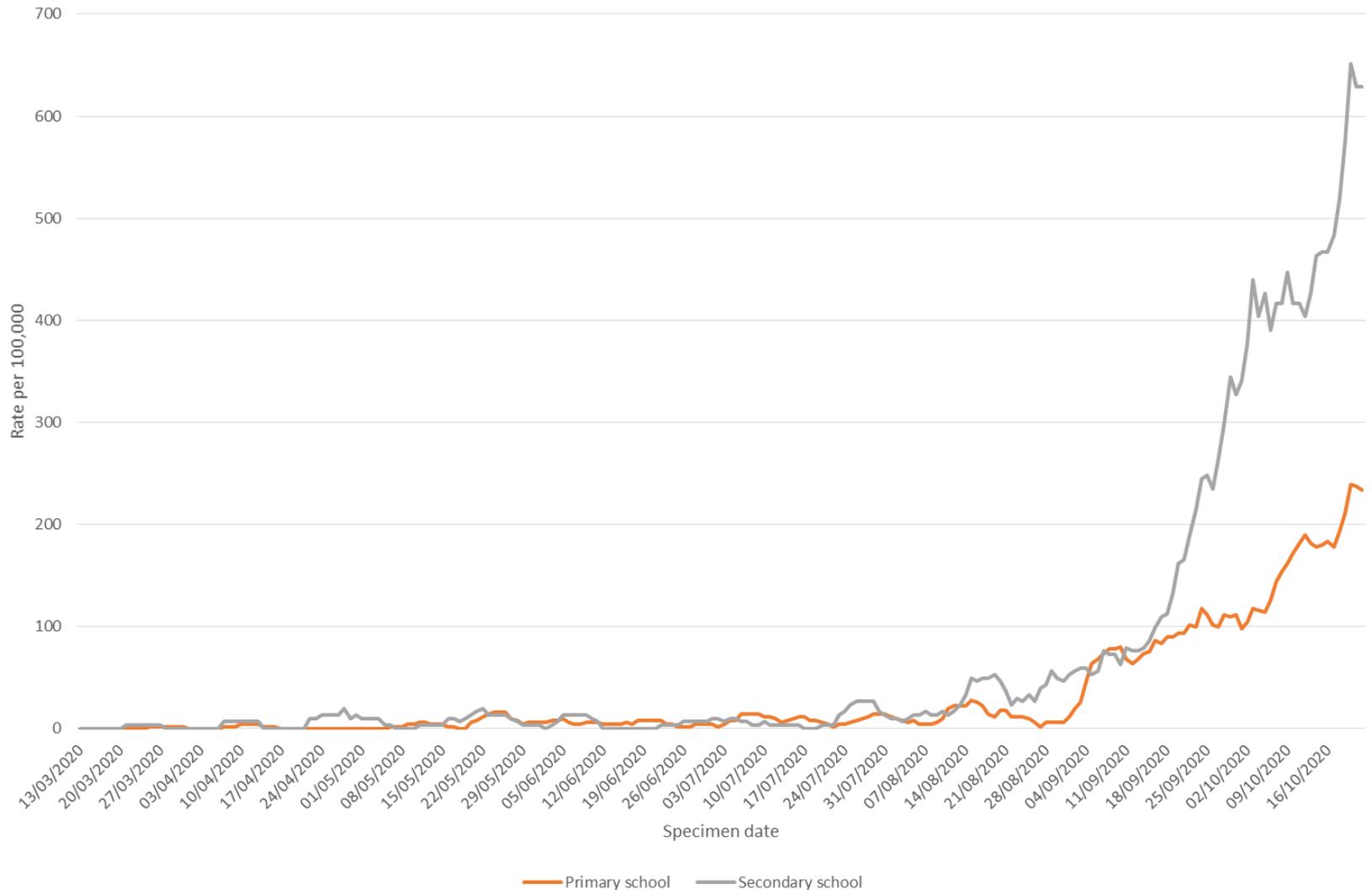
Rate of new cases of COVID-19 in Manchester peaked at 583.2 per 100,000 on 3 October. Rate has subsequently fallen but has begun to climb upwards again.



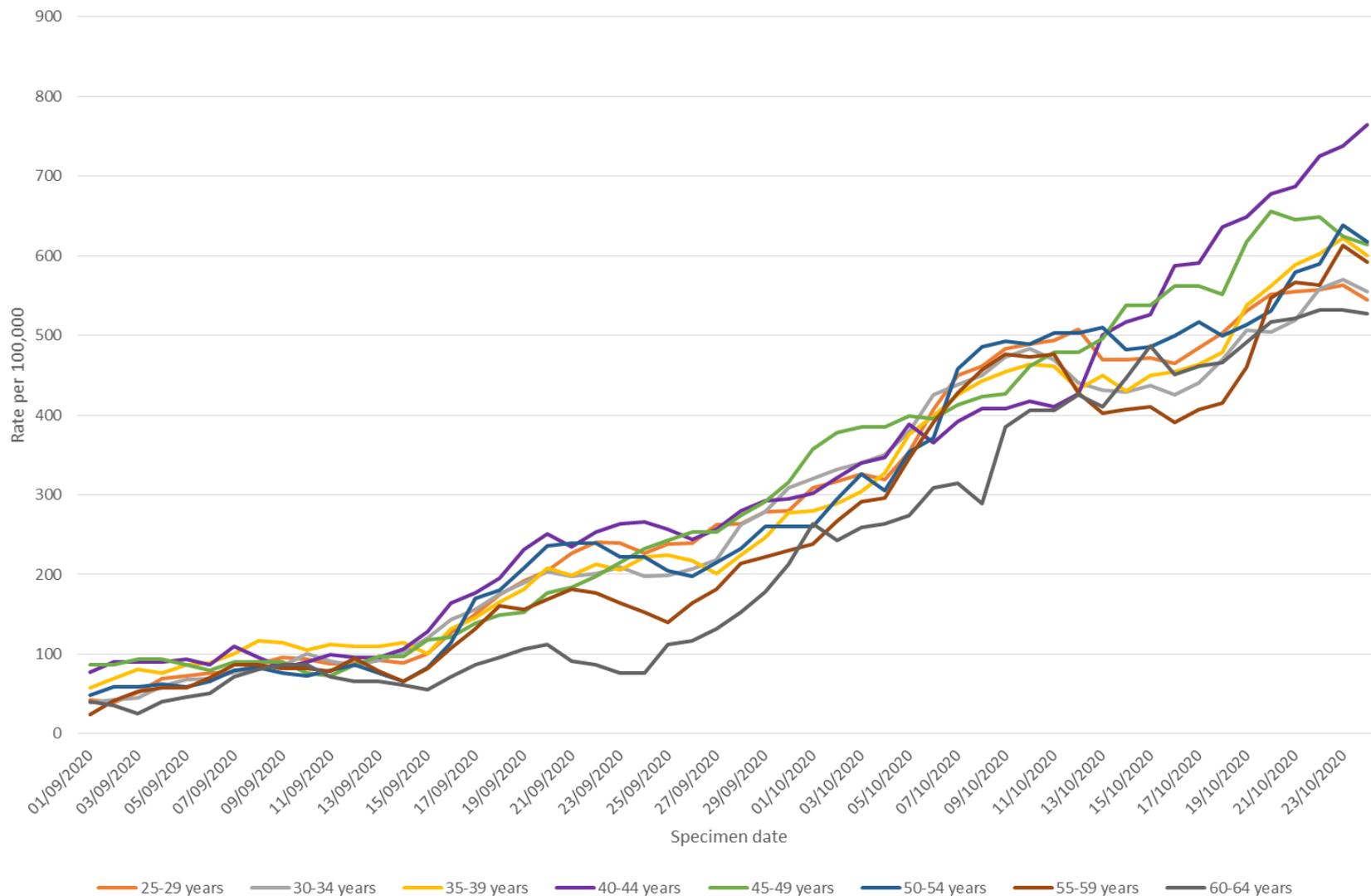
An abnormally high but short lived peak of cases in young people aged 17-21 has been a key feature of the developing second wave of the pandemic. However, there is evidence of a rise in the rate of cases in other age groups in recent weeks



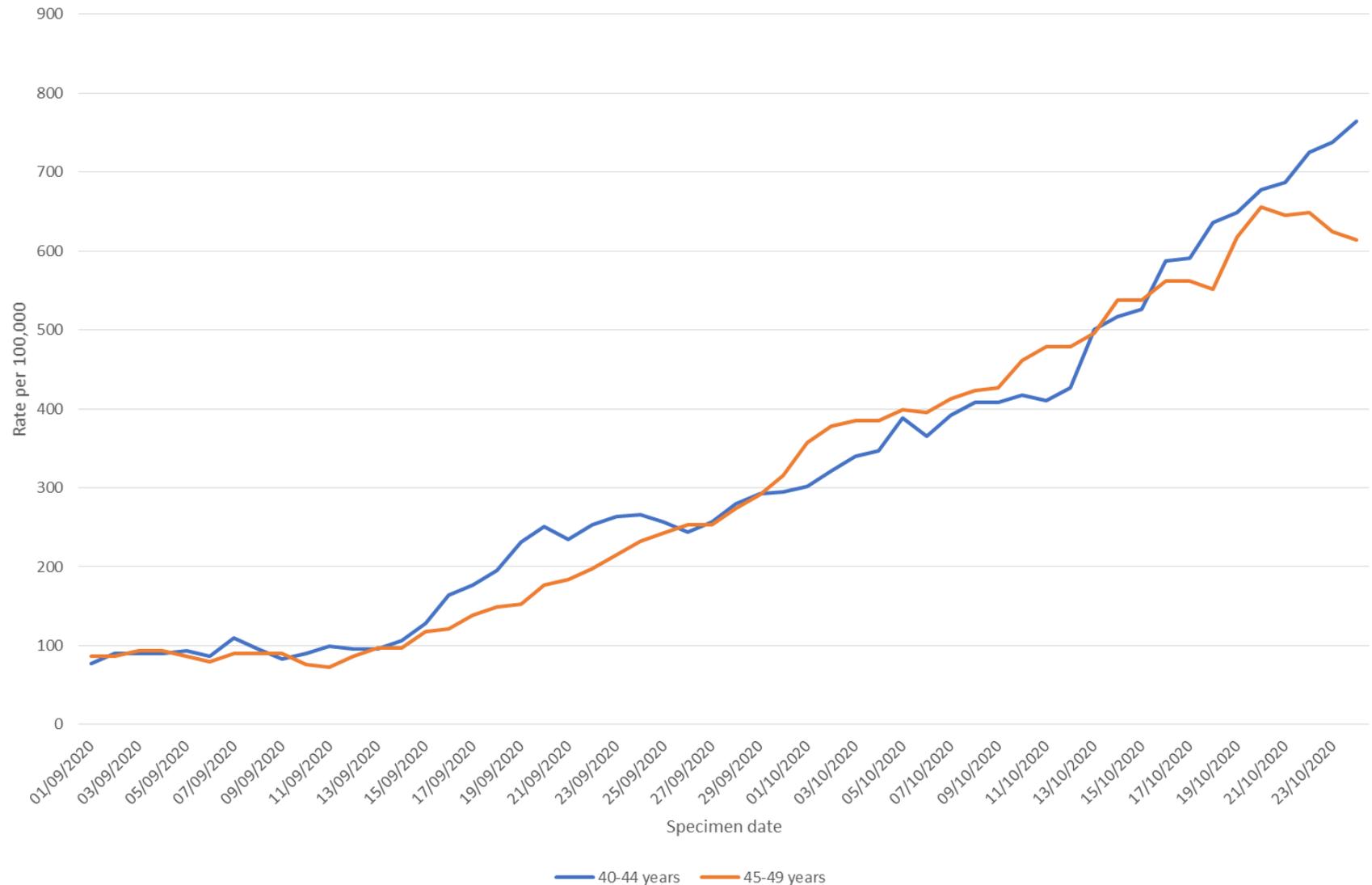
The rate of new cases of COVID-19 has increased in both primary and secondary school age children but the rate of increase has been faster in secondary school age children



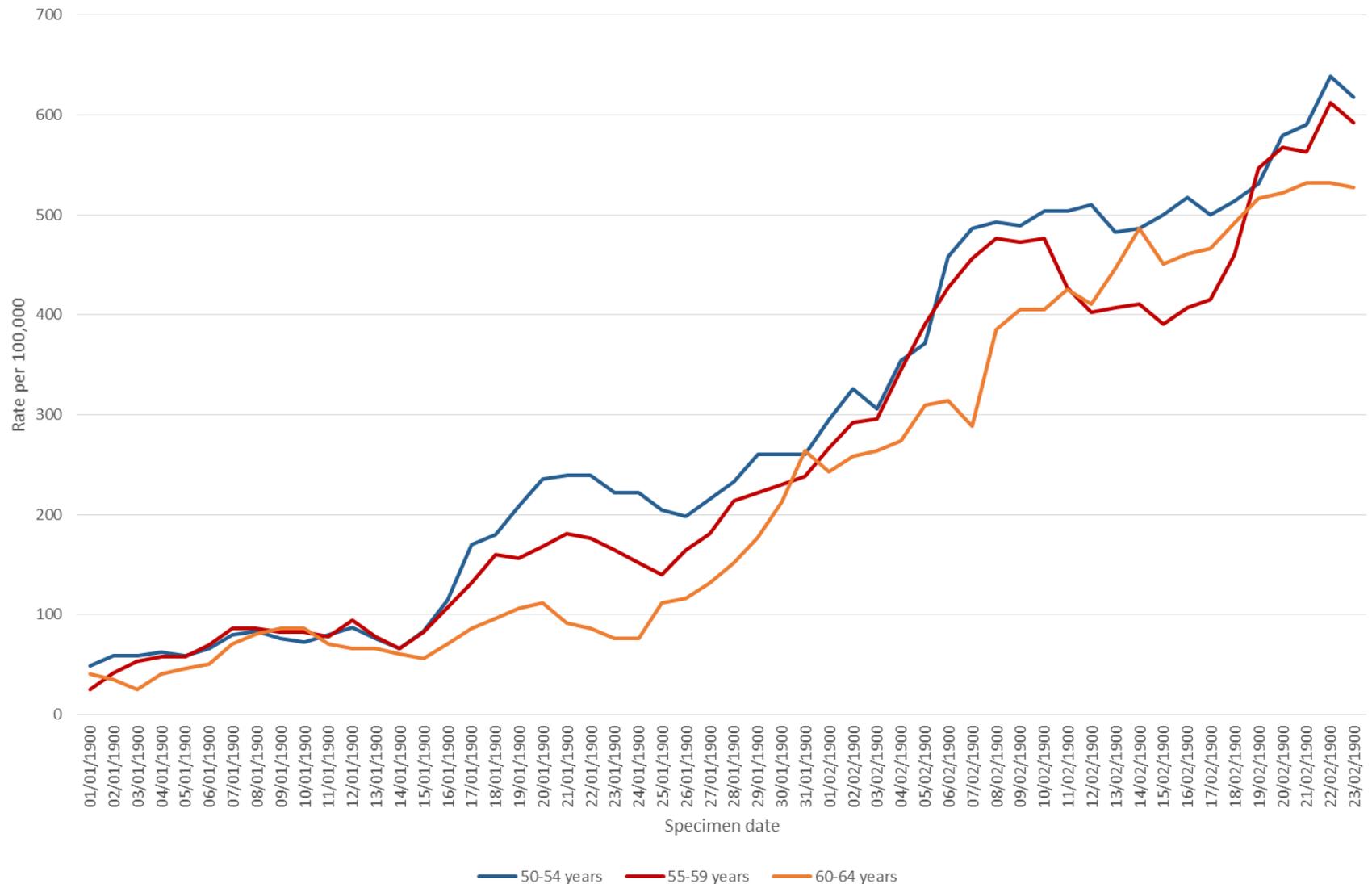
The rate of new cases of COVID-19 has increased in each of the 5 year age bands within the working age population of Manchester (25-64 years) over the period since the middle of September



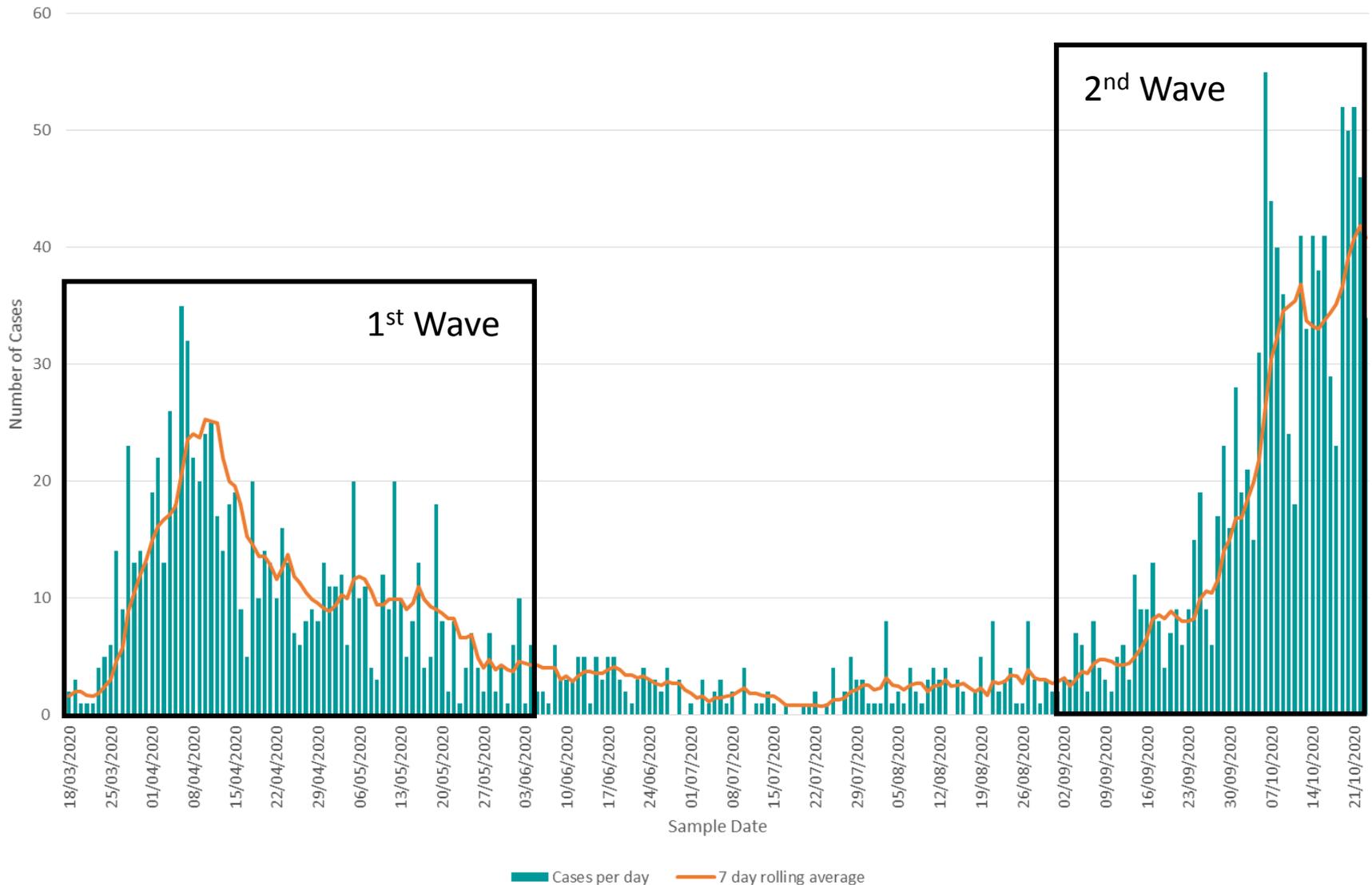
The rate of new cases of COVID-19 in adults of mid-working age in Manchester (40-44 and 45-49 years) is around 4 times higher than it was in the middle of September



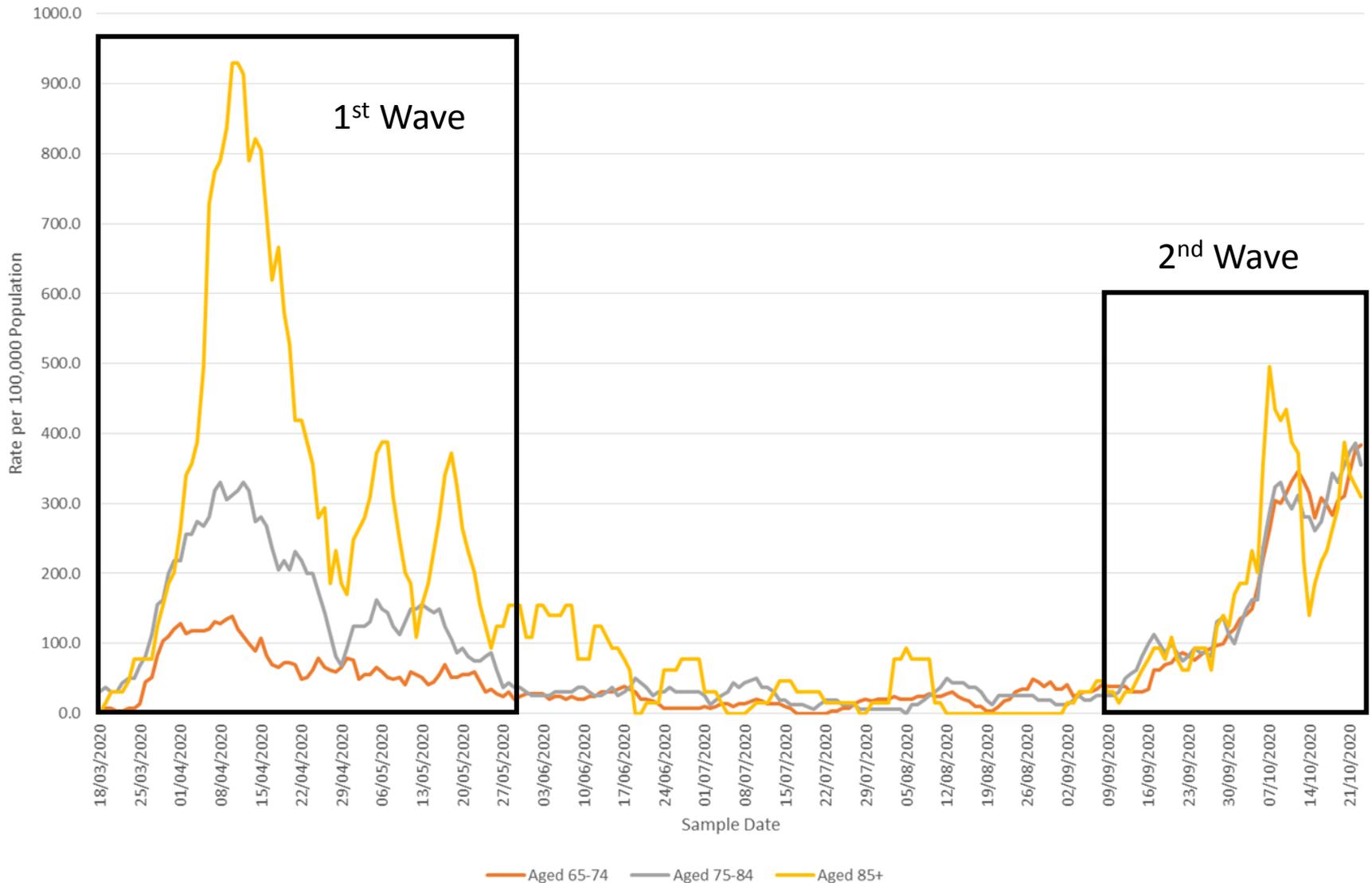
The rate of new cases of COVID-19 in adults of older working age has also increased since the middle of September, particularly in adults aged 50-54 and 55-59 years



The daily number of new cases in people aged 60 and over is now significantly higher than it was in the first wave of the pandemic



Noticeably higher rates of new cases in oldest cohort of older people (aged 85+) in first wave linked (in part) to higher rates of testing in nursing and residential care settings.



Heat maps of age-specific case rates per 100,000 population show the movement of COVID-19 infection over time across different age groups within the population (Manchester “heat map” below, maps have been produced for every LA by Public Health England)

