

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

### HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

#### COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

#### 1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 Progress update against each of the themes in the North Lincolnshire Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan.

#### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council is committed to working with our partners to keep our communities safe, well, prosperous and connected. Successful prevention and management of local outbreaks is vital to break the chains of COVID-19 transmission and enable people to return to and maintain a more normal way of life.
- 2.2 Locally, the 7-day rolling rate of new cases in North Lincolnshire has started to increase. Over the last 21 days we have seen the 7-day rate rolling increase from 92.9 positive cases per 100,000 (19 February) to 122.5 positive cases per 100,000.
- 2.4 A system-wide approach to targeted testing is now becoming embedded across North Lincolnshire and COVID-19 vaccination program has high take-up rates across the priority cohorts.
- 2.5 The North Lincolnshire Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) was updated on 12 March, to reflect current best practice, lessons learned and future actions. Partners continue to monitor case data daily and target resources as appropriate to prevent and reduce transmission across the area.

#### 3.0 PROGRESS UPDATE

##### 3.1 Local Outbreak Management Plan

All local authorities have been required to update their Local Outbreak Management Plans LOMP. In line with this requirement, North Lincolnshire LOMP has now been refreshed to include:

- Updated priorities
- Examples of best practice
- Current issues and risks
- Revise success measure and performance metrics
- Revised outcomes

3.1.1 A summary of the progress made to date against each of the key themes in the North Lincolnshire Local Outbreak Management Plan is given below.

### **3.2 Care Homes**

- The most recent data shows the number of positive cases in care homes is extremely low, with fewer than 8 people (combination of staff residents) having positive test results.
- The priority focus continues to be centered on preventative activity and supporting care homes.
- The programme of vaccinating across North Lincolnshire's care home residents and staff is progressing extremely well, with over 94% care home residents having received their first dose and 80% care home staff receiving their first dose.

### **3.3 Education settings**

- All North Lincolnshire schools and colleges reopened on 8 March 2021 in line with national guidance.
- Schools have reviewed their COVID safe arrangements and early indications are that attendance levels for primary schools are higher than the average attendance for North Lincs in non-covid times. 97% of children attended primary school as of 11 March 2021, 87% attended secondary and 93% attended special schools.
- Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.
- We have seen an increase in school cases recently. In the last 10 days from 15 March, 29 schools have reported 101 positive COVID cases for staff and pupils.
- COVID-19 stay safe banners have been produced and given to all primary and secondary schools and alternative provision settings to ensure parents and carers, as well as children do not gather outside schools.
- All secondary and primary schools have now received testing kits to test staff twice weekly; testing is undertaken at home for primary school staff and on school site for secondary schools.

### **3.4 High-risk workplaces**

- North Lincolnshire's surveillance continues to effectively identify outbreaks in business settings.
- The number of outbreaks has remained reasonably constant over the last couple of weeks.
- Outbreaks are being dealt with promptly and effectively to halt transmission at the earliest opportunity.
- North Lincolnshire council continues to have effective and proactive communications with local businesses.

### **3.5 Local testing**

- Local PCR testing centers have sufficient capacity to meet current demand.
- Two community testing venues are now operational. The centers are located at St John's Market, Scunthorpe and Fun Forrest, Brigg. Over 4,300 invitation have been sent out to critical frontline workers from the public and private sectors who are unable to work from home. We anticipate sending out additional invitations in the near future, subject to sufficient operating capacity.
- Businesses of all sizes, including those with fewer than 50 employees, can now register to order free lateral flow tests for their employee. We have sent communications out to businesses to encourage take-up.
- In addition to community testing, the following people have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing from other sources:
  - Secondary school pupils and college students
  - Staff of primary and secondary schools, nurseries, and colleges
  - Households, childcare and support bubbles of nursery children, primary and secondary-age pupils, and college students
  - Households, childcare, and support bubbles of staff of nurseries, primary and secondary schools, and colleges
  - Children of primary school age or younger will not be asked to test at this time.

### **3.6 Contact tracing**

- Contact tracing continues to perform well with the most recent data showing 96% of contacts been made.
- Seasonal factors may impact testing numbers, such as bad weather, which may discourage some people from getting tested.
- Further development in performance reporting is taking place to continue to improve the service.

### **3.7 Vulnerable people and diverse communities**

- Multi agency work is being undertaken to look potential issues around inequalities relating to COVID, particularly around vaccination take-up rates.
- The recent Community Champions Steering Group was attended by representative from BAME and faith groups.
- Conversations have taken place with community leaders and invitations to attend Friday prayer meetings has been offered to promote vaccinations.
- We are listening to people's concerns regarding vaccine take up so we can help support people who may be hesitant.

### **3.8 Vaccinations**

- As at 12 March, the number of North Lincolnshire residents who have had at least one dose of vaccine and were aged 65+ was 94.7%.
- Humber Coast and Vale is developing plans to greatly increase the number of vaccines being delivered across the region over the next few weeks as we move into more cohorts of people identified by the JCVI.
- Additional funding has been made available to the NHS to ensure people in vaccine hesitant communities, as well as some hard-to-

reach groups, are given the same information and opportunities as everyone else.

- Plans are in development for vaccinating the local homeless population.
- The government has set a target of offering a first vaccination to everyone over 50 by 15th April and a first vaccination to every adult by 31st July.

#### **4.0 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the report and note the work undertaken to date by the Health Protection and Outbreak Management Group.

#### **5.0 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

5.1 Successful prevention and management of local outbreaks is vital to break the chains of COVID-19 transmission, along with rollout testing and vaccinations to enable people to return to and maintain a more normal way of life.

#### **6.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g., LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

6.1 Financial implications associated with the councils Covid-19 response and recovery continue to be monitored.

#### **7.0 OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g., CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

7.1 Implications and risks associated with Covid-19 are being monitored constantly and mitigations being implemented, as necessary.

#### **8.0 OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

8.1 A council-wide approach to assessing the impact of Covid-19 has been adopted.

#### **9.0 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

9.1 Ongoing consultation with a range of partners and key stakeholders are integral to our local response to Covid-19.

#### **10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the Outbreak Prevention and Management activity as outlined in the report.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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