

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with a progress report against the six key themes from the Local Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire's Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) was updated in March 2021. The plan is based on six key themes which are essential to prevent outbreaks and reduce case numbers.
- 2.2 The Implementation and effectiveness of LOMP is assessed through the Health Protection and Outbreak Management (HPOM) group which meets on a weekly basis. This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board members with a summary of progress against each of the key themes.
- 2.3 Proactive surveillance is being undertaken in North Lincolnshire to identify priority cases which may have an increased likelihood of causing outbreaks. This ensures rapid contact tracing can take place to help contain the virus and reduce the risk of ongoing transmission.
- 2.6 Infection rates in North Lincolnshire have remained above 300 (per 10,000 people) since 25 August with a steady increase to 392 by 6 September followed by a slight decrease. A more detailed epidemiology update will be provided at the board meeting. Data indicates that vast majority of cases are being caused by community transmission.
- 2.8 The key priorities over the autumn period are to keep rates of hospitalisation and serious illness to a minimum, reduce transmission in high risk settings, support school leaders, increase high levels of testing and increase the number of people being vaccinated.

3.0 PROGRESS ON LOMP THEMES (as at 10 September)

3.1 Care Homes

The Care Home Oversight Group meets regularly to review local data and intelligence, coordinates support to care homes around infection control and outbreak management and leads on implementing the COVID-19 Care Home Support Plan.

The number of staff in care homes testing positive for COVID was zero and fewer than five staff members were positive, Vaccinations in care homes continues to be a high priority. Currently 95% of care home residents and 93% staff have received their second dose of the vaccine.

New guidance on visiting care homes became effective from 16th August 2021 which includes advice on:

- Care home residents having 'named visitors' who will be able to enter the care home for regular visits.
- Care home residents being able to choose to nominate an essential care giver who may visit the home to attend to essential care needs
- Advice on physical contact (eg hugging).
- Vaccinations being the best way to combat infection and encouraging visitors and residents to be vaccinated.

From 11th November 2021, all care home workers, and anyone entering a care home, will need to be fully vaccinated, unless they are exempt under the regulations. The monitoring and implementation of this initiative is being overseen by the Care Home Management Group.

3.2 Education settings

Weekly meetings are in place to oversee the outbreak prevention and management in educational settings.

Since 2 September, when some schools returned for the new academic year, there has been 61 notifications from 23 settings. School guidance from DfE has removed the need for many of the options for restricted arrangements in school that were in place during the last year. Face to face learning is prioritized.

Pupils in Scotland started their Autumn terms earlier than pupils in England. It has been noted that increased infection rates in Scotland have been seen, so this something which will be monitoring carefully in North Lincolnshire.

CO² monitors are due to be distributed to the special schools, DfE guidance for their use has been published. It is anticipated that they will be helpful in identifying areas where additional ventilation may be useful.

3.3 High-risk workplaces, communities and locations

The council and partners continue to work effectively with workplaces. Where workplace outbreaks are identified, and there is a risk of onward transmission, the council works with the host organisation to reduce the likelihood of additional cases.

At present cases in workplaces are reflective of community transmission, with no workplace outbreaks of note.

Events Safety Advisory Group continue to advise on the safety of public events.

3.4 Local test and Trace

Greeson Hall and Ashby Community Hub are used for targets testing and continue to operate well. These facilities focus on enabling highest levels of self-testing.

Vaccination drop-in sessions have taken place, with further session planned at Greeson Hall on 12 September as part of a community hosted event (Crosby International Day)

Access for The Foundry Unit will be in place week commencing 11 September. This will provide assisting testing, distribution kits and a base for the Community Testing Team. The site is in a prime location within the town centre with high numbers of passing trade.

Communications are actively promoting twice weekly testing featuring in the Scunthorpe Telegraph and social media targeted to 18+ ages. There is an increase in reported test results for 18+ ages across North Lincolnshire.

3.5 COVID Vaccination programme

The COVID Vaccination Programme continues to be rolled out and is now available from 18+ years age groups. North Lincolnshire has 83.8% uptake of the first dose and 77.9% of the second dose (as at 14/09/20).

The new Scunthorpe Vaccine Centre (situated at the Ironstone Centre) is going well with an average of between 50-100 walk-in vaccinations per day. Onsite pop-up sessions have been planned for: workplaces; Crosby International Family Day; and colleges when students returned.

Ongoing data analysis continues to be undertaken to identify underrepresented groups for vaccination. Further communications push ahead of this weekend targeting the 16-29 year olds

The vaccination programme is expanding with new groups now eligible. It continues to be the key intervention to control Covid and remains high priority.

3.6 IPA

The IPA group is working effectively to support communities. This includes:

- Supporting with key messaging and facilitating vaccine take up in priority communities.
- Helping increase vaccine take-up through promoting walk-in sessions for priority groups
- Helping develop community communications to reinforce key messages and encourage vaccine take up.
- Continuing dialogue with residents and community groups to raise alerts re access to vaccinations and social distancing.

4.0 Next Steps / Priorities

The key priority over the next few months will be:

- Updating the Local Outbreak Management Plan
- Continue using behavioral insights and innovative communication to increase testing and vaccine take up.
- Continue with effective surveillance to identify issues of concern, especially VOCs, so prompt action can be taken.
- Continue to work collaboratively partners, workplaces and schools to further reduce the rates.
- Ensuring infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on local hospitals.

5.0 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

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

6.0 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

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

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

- 7.1 Financial implications associated with the council's covid response and recovery continue to be monitored.

8.0 OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.

8.1 Implications and risks associated with Covid are being monitored constantly and mitigations being implemented as necessary.

9.0 OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Work is continually being undertaken to understand the impact of COVID and how resources can be targeted to reduce inequalities (eg access to testing and vaccinations)

10 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

10.1 Ongoing consultation and co-production with a range of partners and key stakeholders is integral to our local response.

11 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the Outbreak Prevention and Management progress as outlined in the report.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Document used for this report:

[Guidance on care home visiting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-home-visiting)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes: operational guidance](#)