

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) is based on six key themes which are essential to preventing outbreaks, breaking viral transmission and reducing prevalence of COVID-19.
- 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 'position statement' of current progress against each of the key themes, based on the latest HPOM meeting of 12 November 2022.
- 2.3 Surveillance is undertaken daily to identify areas of concern which could lead to an outbreak. This ensures timely assessment of the current situation and the ability to rapidly deploy resources (eg an incident management teams) to help contain the virus and reduce the risk of ongoing transmission.
- 2.4 The council has developed and published a COVID public dashboard which is updated daily showing the latest epidemiology around:
- Number and rate of COVID cases
 - Breakdown of cases by demographic
 - Number of cases and rates by geographic area
 - Number and rates of PCR and LFT tests being taken
 - Hospital admissions
 - Vaccination uptake by age and geographic area
 - COVID related deaths

The website can be accessed via [North Lincolnshire Council | North Lincolnshire Covid-19 weekly report - North Lincolnshire Council \(northlincs.gov.uk\)](https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/covid-19-weekly-report)

3.0 PROGRESS ON LOMP THEMES

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 and residents in care homes testing positive for COVID is very low with a small number of cases in staff and residents. Outbreaks have been managed promptly and effectively.

Vaccinations are now mandatory for all Health and Social staff, but the booster vaccination is not mandatory.

3.2 Education settings

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

The number of staff members and pupils testing positive has increased since schools reopened after half term. However, there is currently no requirement to convene any incident management team meetings (IMTs).

The vaccine take-up is currently 45.4% for pupils aged 12-15 years for North Lincolnshire secondary schools and academies. Pupils aged 12-15 years normally only receive one vaccination unless:

- They live with someone who is more likely to get infections.
- They have a condition that means they're at high risk from COVID-19.

Latest guidance confirms that all young people aged 16 and 17 will soon be able to book their second vaccine dose from 12 weeks after their first one¹.

A number of public health briefings were provided for school leaders during w/c 8th November to advise on latest epidemiology and infection prevention and control advice.

3.3 High-risk workplaces, communities and locations

The council and partners continue to work effectively with workplaces. Cases are in a stable position with a decrease in reported cases and only one IMT is in place.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

3.4 Local test and Trace

The Foundry (Walk-in Testing and Vaccination Centre) in Southgate Mall (see appendix 1) – is receiving its final fit-out and compliance checks. This will allow testing and vaccination sessions to commence with effect from W/C 22 November. This will also enable continued levels of self-testing, including self-test kit distribution and assisted testing. The service will operate 6 day per week with circa 80,000 footfall in the vicinity per week.

3.5 COVID Vaccination programme

Schools and academies continue to be visited by the Immunisation Team in the vaccine roll out of 12-15 year olds.

All 16/17 year olds are to be offered a 2nd Covid vaccine and cohort 40-50-year olds will be offered boosters 6 months after their 2nd dose.

Outreach sessions continue to be successful, and a good level of footfall are visiting the vaccination center. Some people can access their third vaccine slightly earlier than the recommended 6 months due to exceptional circumstances

England's health and social care secretary has announced that all staff who work in health and social care settings regulated by the Care Quality Commission will have to be fully vaccinated against covid-19 by 1 April 2022.

There will be a promotional push on encouraging everyone to get their boosters ahead of Christmas by the end of November.

3.6 IPA

The group is continuing to support local communities with a focus on the most vulnerable and the new dashboard (para 2.4) will help in providing information.

The number of volunteers has declined since the initial COVID call, but there is still a good number available. The needs and demands of the volunteer's roles have changed over the duration of the pandemic. Many volunteers are returning to work or no longer wish to be involved.

4.0 Next Steps / Priorities

- Continue using behavioral insights and innovative communication to increase testing and vaccine take-up including boosters .
- Continue with effective surveillance to identify issues of concern.
- Continue to work collaboratively partners, workplaces and schools to further reduce the rates.
- To ensure that work is prioritised to deal with any confirmed or suspected new VOC, thus ensuring maximum opportunity to contain the virus.

- 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)

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

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.

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Appendix 1 - Walk-in Testing and vaccination Centre, The Foundry, Scunthorpe

