

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 7 themes in the North Lincolnshire Outbreak Prevention & Management Plan
- 1.2 Key areas of focus for the outbreak prevention and management in North Lincolnshire for the forthcoming period
- 1.3 Outline of North Lincolnshire's position in relation to risk alert level and local restrictions

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council is committed to working with our local people to keep them 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 On 23 November 2020 Government published the COVID-19 Winter Plan. This plan sets out the programme for suppressing the virus, protecting the NHS and the vulnerable, keeping education and the economy going and providing a route back to normality. The Government's objectives are to:
 - Suppress the virus – bring the R number below 1 and keep it there. Measures include the use of restrictions.
 - Finding new and more effective ways of managing the virus and enabling life to return closer to normal. This includes:
 - Vaccines – following approval of the Pfizer BionNTech vaccine a UK wide vaccination programme commenced on 8 December 2020.
 - Treatment – effective treatments will continue to be vital to manage the virus even as vaccines are rolled out

- Mass community testing – strengthened targeted community testing will support the identification and isolation of people who do not have symptoms but are unintentionally spreading the virus.
 - Minimise damage to the economy and society, jobs and livelihoods. This means ensuring the right support is available for jobs and that early year's settings, schools, further education providers and universities continue their excellent work in ensuring a safe environment for students to learn.
- 2.3 The Winter Plan also set out a targeted regional tiered approach to restrictions. On 2 December following the end of national restrictions, North Lincolnshire was placed into Tier 3 Very High Local Alert Level. This was reviewed by Government on the 16 December 2020 and authorities in the Humber region remain in Tier 3 – Very High Alert. The next formal review is scheduled for 30 December 2020.
- 2.4 In addition to the local restrictions tier arrangements Government have published guidance for the Christmas period. Different rules will apply on the 25 December 2020 only. This includes a relaxing of rules to form a Christmas bubble that will enable people to spend time together in private homes, to attend places of worship, or meet in a public outdoor place.
- 2.5 Targeted proactive communications continue to be a priority action with strong messages being pushed to reinforce that the vaccine is not a signal to change behaviour and the importance to continue with hands, face and space and self-isolation. The council and North Lincolnshire CCG have issued a joint message in the run up to Christmas to reinforce the need to follow guidance.
- 2.6 The council continues to lead local outbreak prevention and management, within a national framework and with the support of NHS Test and Trace, PHE and other government departments.
- 2.7 A system-wide approach to the roll out of targeted testing and the COVID-19 vaccination programme across North Lincolnshire is underway. By 21 December circa 2000 vaccines have been administered in North Lincolnshire.
- 2.8 The North Lincolnshire Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan sets out our collaborative and preventive approach and we continue to monitor case data on a daily basis and target resources as appropriate to prevent and reduce transmission across the area.
- 2.9 **Progress update** - A summary of the progress made to date against each of the seven key themes in the North Lincolnshire Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan along with priority actions and next steps is given below.

2.9.1 Care Homes

- Cases of COVID-19 in care home settings continue to be closely

monitored with the situation across our care homes showing significant improvement.

- NHS Test and Trace is making regular COVID-19 testing available to eligible Extra Care and Supported Living settings.
- All front-line health and social care staff are being prioritised to get the flu vaccination.
- Government have announced a new regime of lateral flow testing for care homes which is currently being rolled out to staff, residents and visitors.
- Further guidance on visiting care homes has been received and a letter has been sent to local care homes, with the position being kept under regular review.
- Care home workers and the over 80s have been prioritised locally for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- Roll out of vaccinations into care home settings will commence on the 23 December 2020.

2.9.2 Education settings

- All North Lincolnshire schools have remained open since 1 September 2020 with the exception of a very small number closing for 2/3 days for a deep clean.
- Intelligence from regional networks is that schools in North Lincolnshire are being enabled to remain open by locally informed timely advice regarding close contacts and closing bubbles.
- The remote learning offer in schools is well planned with good take up by children not in school.
- Government have announced that lateral flow tests will be deployed to all secondary schools and colleges from January 2021.
- A staggered return for some secondary school pupils has been announced by Government with many pupils receiving remote education for the first week back in the new year and not returning to the classroom until the week commencing 11 January 2020.

2.9.3 High-risk workplaces, communities and locations

- Overall, the number of cases in business premises are reducing in line with a decline in community transmission.
- We continue to work with businesses to manage local outbreaks as they occur. The focus remains on sectors where transmission risks are highest, particularly food retailers.
- Pro-active targeted work is being undertaken with the retail sector and with Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's).
- Covid prevention assistants are now in place and working proactively where needed on an evidence and intelligence led basis.

2.9.4 Local testing

- There continues to be good capacity for Pillar One and Pillar 2 testing locally
- Priority cohorts for the roll out of lateral flow testing have been identified and arrangements are being put in place to deliver testing across a number of settings in North Lincolnshire, as part of a Humber wide approach.

2.9.5 Contact tracing

- The proportion of NHS test and trace cases completed for North Lincolnshire is currently above the Yorkshire and Humber and England average.
- Any cases not contacted by the national team after 24 hours are passed to local contact tracing teams.
- Local contact tracing arrangements have been established in North Lincolnshire with staffing levels good and capacity available to scale up if required.
- As at 15 December 2020, 365 local contacts have been passed from the national test and trace service with attempted contact made in all cases.
- Further developments are being explored alongside lateral flow testing to carry out local contact tracing in conjunction, to complement this approach.

2.9.6 Data integration

- All data in relation to case information is held in one place and reported as one version of the truth.
- Further improvements continue to take place as the system develops and refines with a dashboard currently being developed.

2.9.7 Vulnerable people and diverse communities

- Targeted communications aimed at specific vulnerable groups regarding self-isolation, social distancing and preventative behaviours continues with circa 300 visits paid to individuals.
- Support to communities continues through the community enablement team and covid community champions.
- Financial support continues to be provided to individuals who are experiencing financial hardship. This support is made up of self-isolation grants with over 200 grants of £500 being paid out. In addition 65 applications for the hardship grant have been approved with the majority of applications being for white goods, followed by food and utilities.
- The voluntary and community sector are working with adults to complete a programme of support re: home support and hospital discharge

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 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, and the planned next steps to ensure we prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 and respond effectively and early to emerging outbreaks

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

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

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

- 5.1 Financial implications associated with the councils Covid-19 response and recovery are being monitored

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

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

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

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

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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