

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cabinet - Wednesday 15 July 2020

Update from COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

Introduction

1. The Covid-19 pandemic is the biggest peacetime crisis that the UK has faced in living memory. Nationwide almost 50,000 people who have tested positive from the virus have sadly died. In Staffordshire, the County Council, our partners and our communities have pulled together like never before and we remain committed to doing everything we can to reduce the risk of a second peak of infections.
2. With lockdown easing, it is fantastic to see more children back at school, more people back at work and more businesses opening their doors, but it is important than ever that we stick to the rules.
3. This means washing your hands regularly, sticking to the 2 metre social distancing whenever you can, and self-isolating and booking a test if you have any Covid-19 symptoms. As part of the Test and Trace Service, if you are contacted by an NHS tracer because you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus, you must self-isolate for 14 days, even if you have no symptoms.
4. We have developed a Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan to help identify outbreaks, prevent the spread of infection. We have established a Member Led Outbreak Control Board to oversee the Plan. The Board includes elected Members from the Council's Cabinet, the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee and each District and Borough Council. They play a vital role in proving local intelligence and communicating with the public.

Latest Situation

5. The number of confirmed cases in Staffordshire is declining. There are currently around 5-10 new confirmed cases daily across the whole county. There is no individual district or borough currently that is causing concern.
6. This is good news, but we must remain vigilant. There remains a risk of a resurgence of the virus. We are monitoring the situation closely and the information we have available is improving - although we continue to press HM government for more timely and comprehensive data.
7. We are currently managing 64 Incidents of suspected or confirmed cases or outbreaks in a range of settings - including care homes, schools, prisons and businesses. We are supporting the settings to prevent the spread of infection, identify contacts, and maintain services where appropriate.

8. We are testing people who are admitted to hospital, in the event of outbreaks in particular settings, and in care homes as part of a national rolling programme of testing. Around 300 people with Covid-19 symptoms are being tested daily at one of the regional testing centres and around 1-2% are positive.
9. We will provide further details to local Elected Members about those Incidents that are particularly sensitive as well as a weekly summary of key issues.
10. Anyone who suspects a local outbreak should let the Council know. You can email us at C19LocalOutbreakControl@staffordshire.gov.uk

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

[COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan](#)

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