

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cabinet - Wednesday 21 July 2021

Update from Covid Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

Introduction

1. The number of new cases nationally and in Staffordshire continues to rise steeply, and cases are particularly high in Tamworth. However the vaccination programme appears to be successfully limiting the number of hospitalisations and deaths. This has given the Government the confidence to announce that Step 4 on the national roadmap will proceed from 19 July.
2. Many residents and businesses will welcome the release of Covid restrictions. It is important to remember that the virus does still pose a threat. People should exercise personal responsibility and continue to take sensible precautions to limit the spread of infection. If cases continue to increase there is the possibility that even with the lower risk of complications, we might start to see pressure on the NHS that could lead to a reimposition of restrictions. Many people are also anxious about the restrictions lifting and it is important that we are Covid secure so that they can feel confident to enjoy their freedoms safely.

Covid vaccination

3. The Covid vaccination programme continues to make excellent progress and is ongoing. The NHS has now administered nearly 1,200,000 doses to Staffordshire residents. The NHS is now offering first doses to all adults. Uptake of two doses is close to 95% in over 65s, 80% in 50 to 64 year olds, but lower in younger adults. It is important that people get both doses of the vaccine to provide good protection against the delta variant. The Government has also announced the people who have had two doses will enjoy greater freedoms to travel and from 16 August will not have to isolate automatically if they are in close contact with a case.

Planning for 2021/22

4. The Council is planning to maintain Covid defences for at least the remainder of 2021/22. This includes testing, contact tracing and isolation of cases and close contacts, as well as managing outbreaks and supporting the most vulnerable. These arrangements are set out in our Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan. This will be updated as further details emerge about post 19 July Government policy for controlling Covid.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

[Staffordshire Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan](#)

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