

## Area Council Update – COVID 19 Briefing

### Public Health

#### BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This is a regular update on the Council's Public Health response to the pandemic, providing a wide range of work undertaken across the Council. The pace of change continues, so we will aim to provide as up to date information as possible. Any specific questions on areas of work will be taken back to the appropriate lead for further detail, if appropriate.

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To provide a progress update to members in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 2. Key Themes

##### Headlines as at 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

- [COVID-19 Spring 2021 Roadmap](#) provides plan to move out of lockdown. Increased social mixing is expected due to reaching the next step on the roadmap from Monday 12th April (including opening of non-essential retail and hospitality settings).
- Case rates: we are seeing a continued fall in the case rate which was anticipated with the Easter break, and we expect that with schools reopening both testing and cases will rise.
- The highest number of cases are in the 40-49 age-group, although we may see this age distribution shift again aligned with school-related testing to focus on younger adults and children.
- Areas with higher levels of deprivation have higher case rates than more affluent areas, linked to ability to reduce transmission relating to socioeconomic factors e.g. employment (frontline roles and less likely to work from home) & larger households.
- Continue to see a moderate percentage of cases linked to household clusters, suggesting ongoing transmission within households. Many of these clusters have a school or workplace linked case.

#### Public Health Messages

The National Roadmap is positive, but we MUST continue to reinforce government guidance;

- **HANDS** - Wash hands regularly.
- **FACE** - Wear face coverings in enclosed spaces,
- **SPACE** - Stay at least 2 metres apart or 1 metre with a face covering.
- Let Fresh Air in – during winter months

## Intelligence

### COVID Situation Report (Sit-Rep)

Any local community intelligence regarding COVID intelligence or concerns would be useful to feed into this group.

### COVID Marshals/Community Observations/NEO update

Main themes from community observations:

- Concerns at licensed premises regarding customers not wearing masks. Regulatory services are undertaking further visits.
- Congregation of youths in Cudworth and Great Houghton areas in or around premises (groups of around 8).
- Large footfall at football matches in Grimethorpe and Hoyland.
- Area of high footfall at Cannon Hall/Cannon Hall Garden Centre, as well as issues with vehicles parking and blocking the main road due to car parks being full at Langsett reservoir.

NEOs have worked alongside Museums, Libraries and Barnsley CVS to create a COVID-19 resource pack for Community Centres and Voluntary groups.

### Community Behavioural Insights – Additional Funded Work

A total of 836 Barnsley residents were consulted via workshops or online questionnaire. Full findings and Campaign material should be presented shortly.

Summary of key findings:

- People who are following the guidelines do so mainly to protect themselves and their family.
- Majority of respondents were compliant, but offered reasons why others were not following guidelines; denial, unable to social distance at work, forget about the guidelines, can't social distance in some shops, confusion.
- Most people understood the guidelines but the biggest gaps in knowledge were around when to self-isolate and when to get a test.
- 87% of those surveyed said they intend to get the vaccine (88% men, 86% women).

## Testing

Everyone in England (including those without symptoms) can [access free home testing kits](#) for coronavirus (COVID-19) from the 9<sup>th</sup> April. Availability of home testing for all adults may affect testing rates.

### Symptomatic Testing

Local Testing Units continue at;

- Lower Courthouse car park, County Way, Barnsley, S70 2JW
- Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre car park, Cudworth, S72 8LH
- Summer Lane car park, Wombwell, S73 0DD

These sites are accessible by car and on foot. They're open seven days a week from 8am to 8pm.

Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) sites also available -

Burleigh Street car park, Barnsley, S70 1LW. Open every day until Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April from 9am to 3pm. This is a drive-through testing site accessible by car.

Find out more information at this link <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus-covid-19/get-a-test-for-coronavirus-covid-19/getting-a-test-if-you-have-symptoms-of-coronavirus-covid-19/>.

### **Asymptomatic/Mass Community Testing**

- The Metrodome is now operating as a home test kit collect-only site, with assisted testing now stepped down to be replaced by a Community Collect Model to provide more localised support where there are vulnerable groups or high case areas.
- 53 pharmacies are now on board to offer home testing kit collections -see map below for current distribution. More are expected to sign up to this.



### **School Testing**

- Rapid testing in secondary schools is still underway following return of pupils to schools and colleges on 8<sup>th</sup> March, which has impacted on case rates as expected.
- Primary school staff will continue to take 2 rapid tests a week at home.

### **Vaccinations**

Work is underway to target vulnerable and vaccine-hesitant groups through community engagement for both testing and vaccinations.

- Outreach visits planned this week in specific areas in the borough with low vaccine uptake - joint approach with Communities Team colleagues and Public Health colleagues;
- Posters developed ready to be placed up around the borough and leaflets to hand out;
- Working up plans to improve uptake in cohorts 1-9 and future planning for cohorts 10-12 with engagement plan framework being used as a tool to capture barriers/solutions.

Vaccination roll out is managed by Barnsley CCG: more information can be found on their FAQ page <https://www.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/patient-help/covid-19-vaccine-faqs.htm>

- As of writing, 128,000 people in Barnsley have had their first dose with 34,000 having had their second dose.
- Cohort 10, 11, and 12 are now able to access vaccinations, which includes those aged 45 or over.

## **Recommendations**

Members to note the information in the report and consider the following;

- Promote PH Messages around HANDS, FACE, SPACE and encourage local communities to get tested, especially if they have symptoms.
- Continue local connections with NEOs/COVID Marshals to feedback any community-based intelligence especially in relation to increased levels of cases in particular areas
- Make any further comments on this report and its format/content

### **Officer Contact:**

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### **Date:**

29/03/2021  
29/03/2021

### **Other Contacts:**

- To book a symptomatic test you can book a test on the NHS website (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>) or call 119 if you're not able to access the internet.
- For queries regarding staff vaccinations (including Community and Voluntary Sector staff): [ascpublichealth@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:ascpublichealth@barnsley.gov.uk)
- For queries regarding COVID marshals or joint operations with South Yorkshire Police: [COVIDmarshals@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:COVIDmarshals@barnsley.gov.uk)
- To report any concerns with businesses not complying with COVID-19: [Regulatoryservices@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:Regulatoryservices@barnsley.gov.uk)
- For more general public health queries, please contact [PublicHealth@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:PublicHealth@barnsley.gov.uk)

## Safe Behaviours



Wash hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds.



Wear a face covering in enclosed environments.



Maintain space with anyone outside your household or bubble.



Meet with others outdoors where possible.



Minimise the number of different people you meet and the duration of meetings, if possible.



Let fresh air in.



Download the NHS Test & Trace app.



Get a test immediately if you have any symptoms.



Self isolate if you have symptoms, have tested positive, or had contact with someone with COVID-19.