

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 17th May 2021

You can find weekly updated case rate information [here](#).

- Barnsley is relatively stable but with case rates still higher than other parts of England.
- The all age case rate continues to fluctuate around 60 per 100,000 (almost three times higher than the National average of 22.1), with Barnsley in the top ten Local Authorities with highest rates.
- We may start seeing more of an impact of schools returning and testing as we approach 3 weeks post-holiday, with a case rise in 10-19s this week, and a school outbreak and related household clusters driving rates in some wards. However, Step 3 of the roadmap starting today (17th May) has likely potential to drive greater transmission and therefore a further rise in cases, particularly if indoor household mixing is permitted, and we expect this to be reflected in what we have to report over the coming weeks.
- **Age:** highest number of cases (53%) remain in 10-39 year olds, with a continually increasing rate among secondary school aged children, though there has also been a recent rise in primary school cases. The number of 40-59 year olds fell this week to 38, making up 22% of all cases.
- **Wards:** Most wards are following a reducing trend in cases, with a few exceptions. Penistone West has the highest increasing trend in case rates, driven in part by case clustering from a school-related outbreak. North East and Stairfoot also show an increasing trend this week, but data suggests cases linked to schools and household clusters are the main contributing factors. Cudworth remains an outlier regarding 3-week average case rates by ward. However, the number of cases is small (n:11), most explained by links to schools or household clusters and rates are not escalating.

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**

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:

- Observations have included higher footfall although lower than expected over the bank holiday due to inclement weather.
- Levels of compliance appear consistent, with just a handful of hospitality venues receiving follow up support and COVID marshals providing evidence to support action by colleagues in Regulatory Services.
- Data from South Yorkshire Police shows a reduction in Covid-19 related incidents with only one Fixed Penalty Notice issues in this time period.
- No concerns received linked to planned events. Comments regarding Mandela Gardens included that it appeared as well managed and engaged well with Town Centre teams. The fun fair at Haigh and Wombwell reported very low footfall and left site earlier than expected.
- Marshals and NEOs continue to support schools.
- One anti--lockdown sticker has been removed from Market Street in the lockdown sticker has been removed from Market Street in the Town Centre in the last week.
- Step 3 response planning continues with regular meetings chaired by the Head of Corporate Health & Safety and Emergencies.

Testing

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

Symptomatic Testing

Local Testing Units continue at;

- County Way lower Courthouse car park,
- Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre car park,
- Wombwell Summer Lane car park.

Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) sites also available -

- Burleigh Street car park, Barnsley, S70 1LW. This drive-through testing site is open every day until Sunday 23rd May, from 9am to 3pm.
- Queen Street car park, Goldthorpe, S63 9ND. This testing site accessible by car and on foot and is open every day until Sunday 23 May, from 9am to 3pm.

Find out more information at this [link](#).

Asymptomatic/Mass Community Testing

Everyone in England (including those without symptoms) can access free home testing kits for coronavirus (COVID-19). You can use these lateral flow kits to test yourself for the virus twice a week. For more information see [here](#).

Asymptomatic testing accounts for 89% of testing activity, with schools continuing to dominate this picture.

School Testing

- School testing continues
- Find school bubble closures on the [BMBC Website](#)

Vaccinations

As always, the best source of information regarding vaccinations can be found from the [Barnsley CCG webpage](#). Around 135,000 Barnsley residents have received at least one dose and we have seen the number of COVID-19 patients in hospital reduce significantly.

You can view updated data on vaccination rates for Barnsley [here](#).

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

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Date:

17/05/2021
17/05/2021

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
- For queries regarding COVID marshals or joint operations with South Yorkshire Police: COVIDmarshals@barnsley.gov.uk
- To report any concerns with businesses not complying with COVID-19: Regulatoryservices@barnsley.gov.uk
- For more general public health queries, please contact 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.