

## Area Council Update – COVID 19 Briefing

### Public Health

## **BARNESLEY 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 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

### **Public Health Messages**

The National Roadmap is generally positive 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:

- Perceived reduction in the use of face coverings continues.
- Footfall appears to be increasing with higher levels being reported in the Town Centre, Wombwell and Hoyland.
- Covid-19 related incidents reported via South Yorkshire Police (SYP) have remained low this week. We are aware of that a house party with approximately 20 people took place in the Goldthorpe area and a large unauthorised traveller encampment arrived last week for an event taking place in a neighbouring area over the weekend.
- Hospitality compliance monitoring has been generally positive with the slight increase in observations relating to football being aired. To support efforts to target underrepresented groups in vaccination uptake marshals will be helping to

- distribute beer mats with booking information and reminders for people to book their vaccine, these have been created by our communications team.
- COVID marshals and SNS out of hours teams are continuing to support efforts to deter unlawful and unsafe open water swimming.
  - Following the announcement on Monday we are likely to see increased division and tension in our communities relating to the easing of restrictions. The Step 4 Response Planning Group will meet again 22 June to discuss this. We have seen some examples from local businesses taken to social media to publish their opinion and confirmed their intention not to comply. Comments and encouragement for others to do the same appear to have gained some traction, this incident has been escalated via our Communications team.
  - Given this please can we again push the completion of intelligence submissions using community observations webform with our teams. If any of your contacts do not have a @barnsley.gov.uk email address but would like to submit intelligence they can do so by emailing [safer@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:safers@barnsley.gov.uk), if you note anything that requires direct attention from the COVID marshals or our joint operations with SYP please contact [COVIDmarshals@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:COVIDmarshals@barnsley.gov.uk)

## Testing

Everyone in England (including those without symptoms) can [access free home testing kits](#) for coronavirus (COVID-19). 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. This drive-through testing site is open every day until Sunday 27 June, from 9am to 3pm.
- Queen Street Car Park, Goldthorpe, S63 9ND until Sunday 27 June, 9am to 3pm.

You need to book an appointment to get a coronavirus test on NHS.UK before visiting a testing site. 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

You can access lateral flow tests either:

- through a workplace testing programme on site or at home (if your workplace is registered for the national [workplace testing scheme](#))
- through onsite testing at schools and colleges
- by collecting home test kits from a participating pharmacy ([find a participating pharmacy on NHS.UK](#))
- by collecting home test kits from a local test site (details below)

- by ordering home test kits online

#### Collecting home test kits from a local test site

You can collect two packs of home test kits from the following test site collection points from 3.30pm to 7pm every day. Each pack contains seven tests and anyone aged 18 or over can collect them without an appointment.

- 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

Mobile test kits were distributed on the 9th June at Royston High Street (270 test kits distributed) and 11th June at Wombwell High Street (702 kits distributed). Those aged 30 plus are more likely to pick up test kits than younger age groups. Planned locations for this week are Bolton upon Dearne and Goldthorpe.

## Vaccinations

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 277,477 vaccines have been administered in Barnsley. 94% of over 50s have had a first dose, and of that 90% have had a second dose.
- National government have updated guidance moving the timing of the second vaccination doses down to 8 weeks for 40-49-year olds.
- Uptake in Barnsley bookings via the national booking portal is quite low.

The GP Vaccination service will be running a **drop-in clinic** from 10am-2pm in Market Kitchen on Saturday 19th June for those aged 40 or over.

- 1st doses for anyone aged 40 and over. (If you are under 40, please do not attend the drop-in and book your 1st dose online or call 119 for an appointment.)
- 2nd doses for anyone who had their 1st dose of AstraZeneca on or before the 4th April 2021.

## 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:

Cath Bedford [cathbedford@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:cathbedford@barnsley.gov.uk)  
Lucy Butcher [Lucybutcher@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:Lucybutcher@barnsley.gov.uk)

## Date:

17/06/2021  
17/06/2021

## 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.