

## Area Council Update – COVID 19 Briefing

### Public Health

#### BARNSELEY 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 an progress update to members in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 2. Key Themes

##### Headlines as at 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

- [COVID-19 Spring 2021 Roadmap](#) provides plan to move out of lockdown
- Case rates showing a very slow and fluctuating decline that looks to be on a plateau over the next few days.
- No change in overall age distribution, with most cases remaining in working aged adults. Case rates in over 65s (and particularly over 80s) have fallen well in the last week.
- All neighbourhoods are seeing case rates decline or stabilise. Day to day and week to week variation in rates by neighbourhood is becoming even more apparent as case numbers fall, but at present there are no "hotspots " of concern requiring targeted action.

#### 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)

As always, any local community intelligence on these areas is fed into this group and would be useful.

##### Covid Marshals/Community Observations/NEO update

Main themes from community observations:

- Lack of face coverings especially in licensed premises and general stores
- High footfall in shops on Saturdays and outdoor leisure settings on Sundays (e.g. Cannon Hall farm, Langsett Reservoir).

There has been mixed feedback on the COVID marshals with some negative comments from those who have been challenged but supportive from those observing challenges.

#### Community Behavioural Insights – Additional Funded Work

A total of 836 Barnsley residents were consulted either via workshops or an online questionnaire. Full findings and Campaign material will be presented to SMT w/c 1<sup>st</sup> March, with official launch planned for 15th March.

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).

#### **Outbound calls – COVID Support Service**

- The Shielding list has been extended to include an extra 2,500 people in Barnsley. As will all CEV residents, they will be contacted and supported by a team of outbound callers from libraries, healthier communities and COVID support team, to offer welfare advice & support as required.

#### **Testing**

##### **Symptomatic Testing**

Testing continues at; County Way lower Courthouse car park, Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre car park, and Wombwell Summer Lane car park for symptomatic residents.

Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) sites available -

- Queen Street car park, Goldthorpe, S63 9ND. Open every day until 7<sup>th</sup> March, from 9am to 3pm. This site is accessible by car and on foot.
- Burleigh Street car park, Barnsley, S70 1LW. Open every day until 7<sup>th</sup> March 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/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-and-guidance/> under the 'get a test for coronavirus' tab.

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

Testing site at Barnsley Metrodome, Queens Ground, Queens Road, Barnsley, S71 1AN. The usual operating hours are:

- 8.30am to 4.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 8.30am to 7pm on Tuesday and Thursday

## **School Testing**

- Return of all pupils to schools and colleges on 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Primary school staff will continue to take 2 rapid tests a week at home
- All secondary and college students will take 3x tests at school testing facilities in the first week from 8<sup>th</sup> March, and will move to 2x tests to use each week at home.
- Secondary school and College staff will be tested 2x a week at home

## **Vaccinations**

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

- All over 70s in Barnsley were offered the vaccine by 15<sup>th</sup> February – over 70000 people have been vaccinated.
- Next cohort 6 is now being offered vaccinations. These are people aged 65 to 69 and all CEV individuals aged 16 years to 64 years, including people who have had an organ transplant, people with diabetes, people who have had a stroke or people living with dementia.
- Local GP vaccination services will focus on contacting CEV due to relationship between general practice and those with long term conditions, and continuity of care. Anyone in this group should wait to be contacted over the coming weeks by their GP practice.
- Individuals aged 65 to 69 will be written to by the national NHS vaccination booking team. This will be at one of the larger vaccination centres such as Sheffield Arena, to ensure as many people can get vaccinated as quickly as possible. If individuals cannot travel or would prefer to visit a Barnsley site, they can wait for their GP to invite them. This may take a while as there are a lot of people in this next group for vaccinations.
- From 15<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> February vaccine supplies were limited with deliveries to Priory Campus site. From 1<sup>st</sup> March vaccine supply is expected to increase and hope to push forward over the following two weeks to have all of cohort 6 vaccinated before moving to 7-9. Patients from all GP practices in Barnsley can be booked into these clinics by their practice who will be working through their list and contacting their patients. This will take several weeks before everyone in these groups can be contacted and vaccinated so please continue to ***ask people not to contact their GP for the vaccine unless they are invited to do so.***

## **Recommendations**

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

- Promote PH Messages around HANDS, FACE, SPACE and encourage 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:**

24/02/2021

**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.