

## **LOCKDOWN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR**

It's the end of another busy week across both the county and district and I can advise that there are signs that the cases and deaths in Warwickshire are flattening with our region below the national average. Whilst we have passed the peak it is being highlighted that we are perhaps at the riskier stage of preventing a second surge, so whilst there is light at the end of the tunnel we are not there yet.

The cumulative of tested hospital cases of COVID-19 across the county was 1141 up from 955 the previous week, with 198 confirmed cases in Stratford on Avon District, an increase of 65 cases down from 68 the previous week. The cumulative total of 91 deaths across the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust includes the four hospitals in Stratford, Warwick, Leamington Spa and Shipston. The analysis has been changed for deaths to be reported by individual Trusts so we no longer have district specific figures, which sadly reflected 65 fatalities last week for SoA. All settings deaths are to be reported going forward.

However the rate of infection 'R' is lower than the average, which is continuing to be reinforced by households staying at home as this is remaining an effective measure.

The district's hospital capacity is continuing to hold up well which has a total of 432 beds and is currently looking after 55 Covid-19 patients with no patients in intensive care. This is an increase of in-patients up from last week but a reduction to zero for intensive care. Non Covid-19 patients are occupying 45% of the other hospital beds, which means the spare capacity of beds is currently 38%.

The spare capacity of beds highlights that the NHS is Open for Business and a new campaign has been launched encouraging people to seek medical care if needed. Both hospital and primary care settings are fully operational with all the strict and safety procedures in place.

Across Warwickshire there are currently 12 out of 38 nursing homes and 6 out of 70 care homes reporting outbreaks. Any 'at risk' residents in Care Homes suffering from COVID19 are being admitted to hospital. WCC is also working with 'clean' care homes and testing staff and residents.

WCC is continuing to work with authorities across the region on PPE supplies and currently all clinical needs are being met and continue to be replenished from certified sources to maintain quality assurance. Whilst all care homes are responsible for supplying staff with PPE, WCC is providing emergency cover to ensure urgent supplies are met.

Testing for Covid-19 has been expanded and extended to all care home residents and those aged 65+ who have to leave their home for work who are symptomatic. A new testing facility was launched in Stratford at the Park and Ride site this week and this will be moved to Stratford College campus next week. WCC is helping to book care staff and residents into testing appointments and all people discharged from hospital into care homes are being tested for COVID-19.

Availability of home testing at present is a bit limited but more will come available, but is less accurate than procedures being undertaken by trained professionals. Public Health Warwickshire has also launched a major communications campaign to promote the testing facilities using all forms of media including print, broadcast and social media.

Contact Tracing is a key strategy in the government's response to relaxing the lockdown and is being led by Public Health England (PHE); Public Health Warwickshire (PHW) is awaiting to receive the directive from PHE but is also putting its own plans in place as well.

WCC's services for Adult Health & Social Care are getting back to normal and the Meals on Wheels service provided by Appetito has witnessed an increase in demand but continues to work well.

All rough sleepers have been offered accommodation however there have been a few across the county which have refused assistance and both SDC and WCC are monitoring them to make sure they are ok.

Waste collections are operating as business as usual although the tonnage from kerb side collections has increased significantly. It is anticipated that a few Household Recycling Centres will open in the coming weeks with new guidelines anticipated from DEFRA. Within the last week there has been a slight increase in fly-tipping adding further pressures on the hardworking teams at Stratford District Council.

Domestic abuse continues to remain at similar levels for this time of year, but is being carefully monitored with hotlines extensively promoted through a big awareness campaign.

The Community Hub which is being run by SDC is working really well and hundreds of food parcels have been distributed to the shielded communities across the district. In addition over £24m worth of business grants have been paid out to local businesses and organisations registered for business rates.

A mailshot is being sent out to every household next week to highlight all the support measures offered. WCC has been allocated 1500 laptops to loan to children with a social worker and disadvantaged 10 year students. Plans to distribute these are in progress and they will be redistributed over time. A child poverty action plan will also be part of WCC's recovery plan.

Both SDC and WCC are focusing attentions on a recovery plan as it is recognised that Stratford-on-Avon District is the fourth worst hit district from an economic perspective in view of its tourism, automotive and creative industries focus.

Thank you for taking the time to read the above and I hope you continue to enjoy a safe weekend at home and take care over the coming week.

Anne