

SBAR 1

SWANSEA BAY UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD AREA COVID-19 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM: UPDATE REPORT FOR SWANSEA

DATE: 23 September 2020

SITUATION

There is ongoing increase in 7-day cumulative rates of COVID-19 infections and test positivity rates in Swansea. Based on data on samples collected between 14 and 20 September 2020, the cumulative incidence reported today, following the identification of 37 new cases in the 24hrs since previous day's report, is 40.1 per 100,000 population, representing an increase from 26.7 in the previous 7-day period from 7 to 14 September.

Positivity rates are now at 3.3%, and increase from 2.3% in the prior 7-day period.

BACKGROUND

Against a background of increased incidence of COVID-19 in South East Wales and to a lesser extent eastern Carmarthenshire, Swansea has seen a continued increase in cases over the last 6 weeks. Until the last two weeks there has been a pronounced 7 day cycle of increased activity followed by a dip, however the overall trend has been upwards. The most recent period of increased activity we are currently experiencing has lasted longer than previous events. Notably the incidence now approaches the 50 per 100,000 population 7 day incidence set out by Welsh Government as a threshold for the implementation of widespread non-pharmaceutical interventions.

ASSESSMENT

There are a number of clusters that have been investigated over the last two weeks. In the main these are small, resulting in less than 10 cases. However the return of students to University recently has already resulted in two clusters associated with sports teams socialising.

Despite our improved understanding of the clusters, the IMT is concerned that there is a mixed picture emerging. Several small clusters certainly contribute to the current trend, however around 40% of cases have no known links to other cases or clusters presently. This high proportion may partially be due to the sudden increase in activity leading to a lag in information reaching the regional response team for collation and discussion.

Intelligence from the regional response and contact tracing teams suggests that isolation requirements are not being complied with in a number of cases. The primary control measure of isolating those who may become cases prior to the point when they become infectious is therefore undermined by this lack of compliance.

The contact tracing service is operating as required, however delays in persons getting tested and the communication of results mean that follow up is often occurring after contact have already developed symptoms. With the issue of isolation compliance already mentioned this means the process is not currently effective in controlling transmission.

RECOMMENDATION

At present we recommend that:

- Immediate action is taken by local communications teams to focus public messaging on a small number of clear, focussed topics
 - Anyone with COVID type symptoms to isolate immediately, only leaving the house to get tested. Their household is also to isolate immediately.
 - There is local testing capacity available immediately using the local call centre booking number.
 - Maintain social distancing (2m rule) and wash hands regularly.
 - Protect yourself and others by minimising contact and travel.
- Discussions are being held with local leaders before the next IMT to raise awareness of the situation and potential control measures. These include a specific meeting with the Higher and Further Education sector.

- Key work streams will consider effectiveness of current and appropriate additional control measures prior to the next IMT so a clear way forward can be described at that meeting.
- **The next IMT will be held on Friday 25 September** at which point focussed discussions will be held on whether there is a need to request specific legislative measures from Welsh Government – and what they are.