

Swansea Bay UHB Incident Management Team: Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendations (SBAR)

TITLE: Swansea Bay UHB Regional IMT SBAR

CONTROL INFORMATION: Completed by Keith Reid, Exec DPH, SBUHB

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Synopsis: **there is some variability in case incidence and positivity rates across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot with recent incidence rates increasing again but positivity rates relatively stable. Further work to examine the impact of recent interruptions in laboratory testing on the figures is underway.**

The ongoing incident/cluster at Morriston Hospital has led to a declaration of a hospital outbreak and suspension of some services locally with relocation to Cardiff of urgent services for a defined period. Contact with affected patients who have been discharged is underway.

The number of hospitalised cases has risen by 50% since Monday with 36 cases in hospital of which 7 are in intensive care.

There has been some reduction in calls to service for South Wales Police across the Region but issues with licensed premises compliance continue to occur.

No specific additional local restrictions were proposed today.

The policy outcome sought by the deployment of TTP resource was raised in the context of whether and how much the current performance is contributing to a reduction in or containment of COVID-19 growth.

Situation:

The IMT reports that:

1. Case incidence and positivity rates across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot appear to be increasing again. Work continues to understand whether this is due to reporting delays working through the system or it may reflect inherent fluctuations in case rates at a new 'steady state' level or it may reflect a re-emerging trend.
2. There remains no evidence currently of transmission among pupils in schools. There are a number of schools with clusters of infection in teaching staff and that appear to have arisen due to in-school transmission.
3. Despite evidence of sporadic cases and some ongoing clusters within the University student population there is no evidence of a significant outbreak in the student population.
4. There is an increasing level of cases in previously identified early years education settings but no evidence of spread across the sector.

5. Currently there is confidence in the control measures within the residential care sector.
6. The Aberpergwm colliery has reopened with additional control measures in place.
7. There remain an additional 6 large employers which are under active management including: TATA steel and DVLA. There has been additional testing deployed to DVLA around a cluster where there is suspected in workplace transmission – specific IMT scheduled for 15th October.
8. There is a declared outbreak in Morriston Hospital under active investigation. Specialised activity has been displaced. Patients are being contacted and advised on their risk and appropriate actions.
9. There is a continuing rise in number of COVID-19 patients being treated in hospital (now at 37 inpatients with 6 of those on intensive care).

Case incidence, positivity rates and case numbers for City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot County Borough areas [source CDSC, PHW]

	Swansea	NPT	Swansea	NPT	Swansea	NPT
	Cases per 100K per week		Positivity Rate		Case Numbers	
06/10	130.8	91.4	9.0%	7.0%	76	29
07/10	120.7	95.1	9.8%	8.0%	48	24
08/10	137.3	117.9	9.4%	8.6%	64	43
09/10	142.9	119.3	9.4%	8.7%	44	16
10/10	130.0	124.9	8.6%	9.3%	32	28
11/10	113.4	108.2	8.0%	8.7%	12	8
12/10	120.7	113.7	8.2%	8.6%	55	32
13/10	129.2	128.4	8.4%	9.0%	87	40

Background:

We are seeing a complex picture with a return to increasing incidence after the reduction in cases over the weekend. This has, however, been accompanied by stability in the positivity rate. There remains some uncertainty over whether delays in issuing results may be contributing to the observed trend. Whether this picture represents oscillation around a new 'steady state' level of incidence or a return to an upward trend in incidence remains unclear.

The overall pattern of disease is unchanged with a large number of sporadic cases with a small number of clusters. There is a small number of clusters with evidence of ongoing transmission associated with specific sites or locations.

The Aberpergwm Colliery reopened for mining today (14th October) with mitigating measures in place.

Results of additional testing in one group of workers in DVLA are awaited. The remainder of cases within DVLA reflect community acquisition.

At TATA Steel weekly engagement has now been set up. There have been no further cases since Monday's update.

The modest reduction in COVID related calls for service to South Wales Police compared with the previous 7 days is continuing. The majority remain from anti-social behaviour (parties or gatherings) or other breaches of local restrictions. There are significant issues in a small number of licensed premises. There has been <5 further cases among Police staff with <5 cases now released from isolation.

There is a declared outbreak in Morriston Hospital affecting two clinical areas (patients and staff affected). This has led to cancellation of some elective procedures. Discharged patients are now being contacted to be advised on their risk and the action to take if symptomatic. The SARS-CoV-2 testing platform at Singleton laboratory is now back in operation at full capacity.

The number of cases in the maternity unit at Singleton is now 9 confirmed. No risk to patients has been identified.

The number of cases receiving in-hospital treatment is now 37 with 6 cases in intensive care. There have been 5 hospital deaths from COVID-19 in the past 7 days. There is an established upwards trend in hospital cases being treated.

For care homes there is ongoing fortnightly staff testing. There are now 4 settings with residents who have tested positive. Two of those are supported living settings and neither has had new cases for 14 days now. However, 29 establishments (including those 4) have had cases among staff and are engaging with EHO support.

The level of risk to the residential care sector remains under active consideration in respect of identifying any changes to local testing regime.

The number of MFFD patients on our acute sites continues to be a concern and is the subject of escalating action.

There are now 47 (down 2 from 12th October) schools who have recorded one or more cases in the past 14 days (19 schools with more than one case, range 2 –

up from 15). However, there remains no convincing evidence of transmission among pupils within schools. There are a small number of schools where there are clusters of infection among staff and in-school transmission in some of these schools is likely following failure to observe physical distancing.

Two student halls of residence of Swansea University continue to have ongoing cases with 17 cases in one hall and 7 in the other (up from 15 and 6). There remains no evidence of linked cases.

The number of cases associated with early years settings (nursery or early years education providers) is increasing within establishments already affected.

Testing capacity is now stable. Performance in relation to turnaround times remains a barrier to timely follow-up of cases.

The contact tracing teams continue to operate under strain. Backward contact tracing is not being undertaken. There was a discussion around whether current end-to-end performance of the Test and Trace programme supports the policy intent. There is reported disengagement from contacts with evasion and non-compliance being reported. There is reported pressure from employers for contacts to attend workplaces and a reported increase in the lack of acceptance of the legitimacy of the self-isolation requirements.

The rolling programme of communications continues.

Items which were specifically identified today as requiring communications action:

- a. Monitoring media around the DVLA situation and providing a correction/fact checking approach to published stories pending an agreed comms strategy for DVLA;
- b. A reminder that any of the key symptoms, no matter how minor, are an indication to self-isolate and seek testing;
- c. Reinforcing the messaging that 'household' = 'who you live with' and not 'wider family'; and,
- d. Supporting businesses to undertake business continuity preparations (due to reports of employers pressurising staff to breach self-isolation).

Assessment:

Following the recent change in trajectory there has been a resumption of an increase in case incidence rates overall (albeit from a lower base) although positivity rates are stable. There is a number of possible explanations for this, which are being explored.

There remains a moderate impact on the local community as a consequence of the imposition of health protection area status on each local authority.

The impact of cases and clusters remains variable across the region. The outbreak within Morriston Hospital is having an impact on access to specialised healthcare and contingency arrangements are in place. There is a growing number of cases

requiring in-hospital treatment and increase in intensive care beds occupied by COVID-19 cases.

Regional action remains focused on compliance in workplaces and in commercial premises and on communications to businesses and the general public on adherence to BSIs.

A review of the performance of the Test and Trace elements of the TTP would be timely, given their current resource requirements. The accessibility of testing, delay in receipt of test results, time taken to reach contacts and growing concerns over engagement and compliance with self-isolation raise issues about the effectiveness of the current approach.

There remains a need for additional regional capacity to deliver timely surveillance to guide action.

The Regional IMT continues to meet three times a week.

RAG status currently

RAG status with further increases
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Recommendations and Interventions sought:

At Local Authority level:

No specific interventions sought.

At Welsh Government level:

No specific interventions sought.

Requesting consideration of a review (at an all-Wales level) of TTP performance against policy objectives and in light of test accessibility, test result delays and uncertain compliance of contacts with self-isolation advice.

Submit completed forms to: HealthProtection@Gov.Wales