

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: **reported case incidence and positivity rates across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot are in an established upward trajectory.**

The hospital outbreak at Morriston Hospital continues to affect services although control measures are in place. Contact with affected patients who have been discharged is almost complete (10 patients outstanding from 153).

The number of hospitalised cases has risen in the past week (from 17 to 48) although the numbers receiving intensive care are stable (5).

The level of calls for service for South Wales Police is stable across the Region. There is an increase in those taken into custody claiming to be COVID-19 positive.

No specific additional local restrictions were proposed today.

The issue of access to COVID status through appropriate health professionals was raised by Police colleagues – can all-Wales guidance be issued?

Private (non-NHS, non-Lighthouse) tests are being undertaken in a number of employment settings and do not automatically populate the CRM – can a protocol be agreed with PHE for results transfer?

Situation:

The IMT reports that:

1. Case incidence and positivity rates across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot appear to be increasing again. This trend appears to be well-established. It has happened despite a reduction in overall testing being undertaken.
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. In the University student population there is an increase in cases in residential accommodation with some cases identified in a third hall of residence. These are being handled as clusters rather than outbreaks.
4. There is further increase in the number of cases in previously identified early years education settings but no evidence of spread across the sector.

5. There have been a small number of cases in residents within the care sector. There is an assessment that the control measures within the residential care sector remain appropriate.
6. The Aberpergwm colliery has reopened with additional control measures in place. No further cases identified.
7. DVLA has a specific IMT in place and a Section 8 Notice – request for co-operation – has been issued. Targeted testing has identified further cases with the total now at 71.
8. There remain an additional 6 large employers which are under active management including: TATA steel, Amazon, and Alliance Health.
9. There is a declared outbreak in Morriston Hospital under active management. Specialised activity has been displaced. Patient contact is close to completion (11 outstanding).
10. There is a continuing rise in number of COVID-19 patients being treated in hospital (now at 48 inpatients with 5 of those on intensive care). There is pressure on available medical beds.

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
14/10	140.1	129.8	9.40%	9.30%	84	43
15/10	147.4	136.8	10.80%	10.60%	86	52

Background:

We are seeing a return to a steady increase in incidence and in positivity rates accompanied by an increase in reported cases. This appears to be an established trend.

The overall pattern of disease is unchanged: 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 on 14th October with mitigating measures in place and no further cases detected thus far.

A dedicated IMT has been established in relation to DVLA. The number of identified cases continues to increase (now at 71) and a Section 8 notice – requirement to co-operate- has been issued to management. There is concern that DVLA management are not responding at the required pace.

At TATA Steel weekly engagement has now been set up. There have been further cases this week and a re-emergence of infection among staff in the Cold Mill.

The modest reduction in COVID related calls for service to South Wales Police compared with the previous 7 days is continuing. There is now only one Police staff member positive (others recovered). However, <5 constables are now in self-isolation due to potential exposure in the line of duty. They detained an individual who declared themselves to be COVID-19 positive after recent return from overseas. This has raised the issue of whether the Police or a healthcare professional caring for those in custody, can access health care records to ascertain the status of a detained person. This issue to be escalated for a national view.

The declared outbreak in Morriston Hospital is being actively managed by an outbreak management team. Contact with discharged patients is now almost complete with 11 out of 153 outstanding. It has led to disruption in three clinical areas now (patients and staff affected) and this, coupled with the increase in COVID cases is causing system strain.

There have been no further cases in the maternity unit at Singleton for 10 days now.

The number of cases receiving in-hospital treatment is now 45 with 5 cases in intensive care. This is an increase from 17 cases with 5 on intensive care a week ago.

The level of risk to the residential care sector was discussed today and a decision was made not to recommend any increase in the frequency of testing. The current approach of rapid response to positive tests in staff and residents was considered appropriate to the current situation by the IMT.

There are now 6 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, 32 establishments (including those 6) have had cases among staff and are engaging with EHO support.

The number of MFFD patients on our acute sites continues to be a concern with no improvement in the past 7 days.

There are now 41 (down 4 from 14th October) schools who have recorded one or more cases in the past 14 days (22 schools with more than one case, range 2 – 32 cases). 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 with in-school transmission (staff-to-staff) contributing.

Two student halls of residence of Swansea University continue to have ongoing cases with 20 cases in one hall and 12 in the other (up from 17 and 7). There is a further cluster of 7 cases in a privately operated student accommodation facility.

The number of cases associated with early years settings (nursery or early years education providers) is increasing within establishments already affected – these cases are arising in isolated contacts.

Testing capacity is now stable. There have been issues with the deployment of the MTUs around the booking of appointments – escalated to DHSC. 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.

The issue of transfer of positive results to the TTP CRM after a private test (non-NHS, non-LHL) has arisen in two circumstances locally. In the most recent incident a large employer is operating a staff testing regime but results were transferred manually to the TTP team. In a prior incident (relating to a sports testing regime) the formal transfer of the results is awaited. A request to escalate this nationally for development of a protocol driven approach was made.

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. Developing a webinar approach to supporting the self-employed to establish effective mitigation measures in support of business continuity (including use of PPEA reminder that any of the key symptoms, no matter how minor, are an indication to self-isolate and seek testing;
- c. Further reinforcing the messaging that 'household' = 'who you live with' and not 'wider family'.

Specific Communications have been developed for use to remind about the rules of not mixing in licensed premises and for Beaujolais Nouveau day in Swansea.

Assessment:

Following the recent change in trajectory there appears to be an established trend of increasing incidence and positivity rates.

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. Together these are creating strain on the acute care provision at Morriston.

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 decision was made that there were no grounds to recommend a change in the approach to testing in residential care homes given the current level of infections in closed settings.

Two items were identified for escalation to Welsh Government:

- i. A request for the provision of all-Wales guidance on the accessibility of COVID test results for those being detained in custody; and
- ii. A request for the implementation of a protocol to transfer positive results from privately undertaken tests into the TTP CRM.

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:

- i. A request for the provision of all-Wales guidance on the accessibility of COVID test results for those being detained in custody; and
- ii. A request for the implementation of a protocol to transfer positive results from privately undertaken tests into the TTP CRM.

Submit completed forms to: HealthProtection@Gov.Wales