

SBAR 3

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

DATE: 28 September 2020

SITUATION

There is ongoing increase in 7-day cumulative rates of COVID-19 infections and test positivity rates in Swansea. Test Trace and Protect teams are managing the contact tracing efforts successfully in face of increased case numbers. Local restrictions are in place for the City and County of Swansea and are pending for Neath Port Talbot County Borough.

	Swansea	NPT	Swansea	NPT	Swansea	NPT
	Cases per 100K per week		Positivity Rate		Case Numbers	
21/09	40.1	15.4	3.3%	1.3%	37	<5
23/09	50.6	18.1	4.0%	1.6%	41	8
24/09	63.6	29.3	4.7%	2.4%	28	19
25/09	82.2	34.2	5.8%	2.8%	58	<5
26/09	93.1	37.0	6.2%	2.9%	36	8
27/09	97.6	41.2	6.3%	3.2%	26	9

BACKGROUND

Following a recommendation from IMT Welsh Government imposed local restrictions in Swansea County with effect from 18.00h on 27th September. Consideration of the situation in Neath Port Talbot Borough has led to local restrictions being announced for that area with effect from 18.00h on 28th September.

Testing capacity remains able to cope with local demand and has been expanded. Mobile Testing Units will be deployed this week to some marginal communities and those with low car ownership.

ASSESSMENT

There has been a significant acceleration in case incidence in Swansea over the past five days. The most recent figures suggest some slowing of that trend but there have been some changes in testing approach in the SBUHB area which mean there is discontinuity in testing locally.

Data from the TTP team indicates that social contact remains the single largest factor driving the increase in cases. That includes social contact outside of schools and workplaces that is creating apparent 'clusters' associated with those settings.

In the main there is little evidence of secondary transmission for most of these clusters. However for two clusters associated with University sports teams there is evidence of secondary transmission; the source of infection appears to be an imported case.

Two geographical areas within the Region have been identified as possible 'hot-spots' for infection. These are being monitored more closely to identify any underlying contributory factors.

The contact tracing service is operating as required and reporting that the time for results to be issued is improving slightly.

TATA Steel has a number of cases in two small clusters. There is considerable business continuity risk to the plant. This is related to the vulnerability of the plant to any impact on the function of the coke ovens. The removal of critical workers in that facility, due to either infection or a requirement to self-isolate, creates a significant business continuity risk that in worst case leads to the closure of the plant.

Support around the scoping of potential risk mitigation strategies for TATA is being offered from within the SBUHB. Additional resource may be required to deliver these strategies, including the provision of national level expert advice and enhanced workforce testing.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that Welsh Government notes the risk to the TATA Steel operation and mobilises appropriate national expert resource to advise on risk mitigation approaches within the workforce.

Regional Recommendations

- Further action is undertaken by local communications teams to focus public messaging on a small number of clear, focussed topics
 - No social meeting in any indoor setting with those you don't live with.
 - Anyone with COVID type symptoms to isolate immediately, only leaving the house to get tested. Their household is also to isolate immediately.
 - Maintain social distancing (2m rule) and wash hands regularly.
 - Protect yourself and others by minimising contact and travel.
- **The next IMT will be held on Wednesday 30th September**