

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

DATE: 02 October 2020

SITUATION

There has been a slowing in the ongoing increase in 7-day cumulative rates of COVID-19 infections and test positivity rates in Swansea. This trend is too early to be attributed to the local restrictions. There has been an accompanying expansion in the number of cases in older age groups within Swansea. Neath Port Talbot incidence has breached the red threshold and positivity rates in NPT continue to rise. Test Trace and Protect teams are managing the contact tracing efforts successfully in face of increased case numbers.

Testing capacity remains able to cope with local demand and has been expanded. Mobile Testing Units are now deployed and the initial sessions have been met with high demand for testing.

There is a low level of COVID infection in secondary care patients (9 cases, <5 intensive care, <5 paediatric case).

Police report no change in the level of calls to service associated with COVID and a low level of anti-social behaviour.

The number of clusters has not expanded significantly.

There is no evidence of transmission within schools.

A cluster associated with Swansea University Rugby Club appears to be under control. There has been an isolated case within a University hall of residence.

One workplace (Aberpergwm Mine) has been closed on advice of Public Health Wales given the number of cases there (39).

	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
28/09	98.8	48.8	6.1%	3.7%	28	15
29/09	100.0	53.0	6.1%	3.9%	27	12
30/09	94.3	54.4	5.8%	4.1%	25	12
01/10	96.4	54.4	6.1%	4.3%	51	15

BACKGROUND

With the implementation of local restrictions in both counties within the Region we are now in a steady state in relation to the operation of TTP and of control measures.

There is a marked change in the age distribution of cases within Swansea with an increase in cases in those of older working age. Clusters are spread across a number of workplaces and contributing factors are outlined below.

The University of Swansea is concerned about the impact on students on Bay Campus (in Neath Port Talbot) not being able to access University sports facilities which are sited within Swansea.

ASSESSMENT

The most recent surveillance suggests some slowing of the increasing incidence in Swansea but the underlying reasons are not clear.

Data from the TTP team continues to demonstrate 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 workplace, there is evidence that mingling in crew rooms / mess rooms or staff rest areas is an issue. In addition, car and van sharing to and from work continues to be associated with linked cases. There is evidence in some clusters that self-employed contractors are not self-isolating but attending work when infectious. Lack of financial support is cited as a motivator for this behaviour.

Two geographical areas within the Region have been identified as possible 'hot-spots' for infection. These continue to be 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.

The business continuity risk to the TATA Steel plant is being addressed through the deployment of national subject matter expert support to the plant management. This has been coordinated between Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and the Local Health Board.

The deployment of the MTUs is now underway. These are being well used. Concerns within the communities are being responded to directly. Some communities have suggested minor alterations to the local set up to help with separation and have offered community assets to assist in separation between those being tested and locals – eg access to alternate car parks for those awaiting tests.

RECOMMENDATION

A single recommendation for Welsh Government: That arrangements for financial support to those required to self-isolate are publicised and the issue of support to the self-employed is considered.

- **The next IMT will be held on Monday 5th October**