

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

VERSION: 9th October 2020_final

Synopsis: **there is a further increase in case incidence and positivity rates across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot with convergence in indicators between the two local authorities. Local restrictions are not yet impacting on the underlying rate of increase in cases. This is in contrast to the experience in other areas with local restrictions but similar to the situation in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.**

Additional early local analysis suggests that household contacts remain high and contribute to ongoing infection.

Investigations are ongoing into a number of clusters.

No specific additional measures were proposed today.

However, there was a request for consideration of changing bubble sizes in secondary education to reduce disruption. to

Situation:

The IMT reports that:

1. There is a continuing increase in case incidence and positivity rates across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. Local restrictions are not yet impacting on the underlying rate of increase in cases.
2. There is no evidence currently of transmission among pupils in schools. There are a number of schools with clusters of infection in teaching staff and that may have arisen due to in-school transmission.
3. There is evidence of cases and some small clusters within the University student population. A hall of residence at Swansea University has a growing number of cases (10 cases), control measures are now in place and cases appear to be linked rather than an outbreak.
4. There is a low level of cases in early years education settings which is having an impact on operations due to self-isolation requirements applying to the whole setting.
5. Currently there is confidence in the control measures within the residential care sector but these are under active review.
6. There are 7 clusters within large employers which are under active management including at Aberpergwm colliery, TATA steel and DVLA. Lack of observance of control measures within the workplace (principally social

distancing) appears to be contributory to risk but evidence of transmission within workplaces is not currently widespread within the Region.

7. There is one cluster in secondary care under active investigation – it appears to be linked to staff exposure outside the workplace. There are two events with a risk of nosocomial transmission where control measures are in place and investigations ongoing.
8. There is a continuing rise in number of admissions to hospital and an expectation of the requirement to open additional intensive care capacity imminently to allow for cohorting of COVID cases.

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	
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
02/10	92.3	59.3	6.3%	4.7%	55	22
03/10	97.2	65.6	7.2%	5.4%	30	9
04/10	107.7	80.2	8.1%	6.6%	59	36
05/10	111.7	81.6	8.1%	6.7%	33	14
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

Background:

We are seeing a continuing rise in cases with convergence between Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

We are continuing to see a generalised increase in sporadic cases with a small number of clusters. On further investigation most of these clusters are not suggestive of ongoing transmission associated with specific sites or locations.

A small number of workplaces has been associated with onward transmission within the workplace. Of these there is evidence of workplace transmission at the Aberpergwm Colliery and evidence suggestive of limited workplace transmission at TATA steel and DVLA. There has been ongoing support to site management at TATA steel and a review of control measures jointly with HSE. Feedback to site management has now taken place and there is an intention for weekly engagement with this site. Additional testing is being undertaken in one

department at DVLA where there is currently a small cluster but concern over mitigation measures in place. Aberpergwm colliery is currently being considered for reopening (56 cases have been recorded there, more than 1 in 3 of the workforce).

There has been no sustained reduction in COVID related calls for service to South Wales Police since the introduction of local restrictions. There has been a cluster of cases within one Police department but emergency response is unaffected.

Hospital admissions are increasing and there are now 5 cases receiving intensive care (11 on acute wards). Further demand from COVID patients requiring intensive care will mean a decant into a larger area to enable cohorting and this is anticipated next week. Testing on admission is well established. There are <5 incidents associated with patients testing positive while on the wards – these are being managed with tracing of all patient contacts. Further updates will occur as information becomes available.

A cluster of cases (7 confirmed and <5 suspected awaiting results) has been identified amongst staff on the maternity unit. This is the subject of an ongoing investigation and wider staff screening has not yet revealed any additional cases. No patient risk has been identified at present.

The two clusters among staff in domiciliary care providers has had an impact on domiciliary care provision.

For care homes there is ongoing fortnightly staff testing and there remain only two homes with positive residents, neither has had new cases for 12 days now. However, 26 establishments have had cases among staff and are engaging with EHO support.

There is concern that the level of MFFDs on our acute sites is now at over 150 patients and has been steadily rising in recent weeks. A request for a multi-agency response was raised at the Health Board Gold today.

There are now 49 (additional <5 from 07/10) schools who have recorded one or more cases in the past 14 days (12 schools with more than one case, range 2 – 11). However, there remains no convincing evidence of transmission among pupils within schools. There has been the suggestion of reducing bubble size within schools to reduce the disruption associated with isolated single cases. There will be engagement with local Education Department colleagues to investigate the feasibility and implications of this approach.

There are a small number of schools where there are clusters of infection among staff and a question as to whether in-school transmission may have occurred. There is infection within two student halls of residence of Swansea University with 10 cases in one hall and <5 in the other. A specific team has been created to act as a liaison and support to the University.

There remains a small number of cases associated with early years settings (nursery or early years education providers).

Testing capacity is now stable after the recent increase at both drive through sites and with the deployment of the Mobile Testing Units. The Local Test Site /

Walk-In Centre has now been commissioned with full capacity expected to come on stream on Monday 12th October.

The contact tracing teams are feeling increasingly stretched with the increasing numbers of cases. Backward contact tracing is not being undertaken.

The rolling programme of communications continues as previously identified plus a reminder that any of the key symptoms, no matter how minor, are an indication to self-isolate and seek testing.

There is an enhanced web-based communication aimed at businesses to encourage working from home, advise against car sharing and to promote adherence to social distancing in the workplace.

Assessment:

On current trajectories cases and clusters will continue to increase with the current control measures in place.

Trajectories from other Health Protection Areas are variable but locally we are not seeing the reduction or stabilization in case rates that have been seen after imposition of local restrictions in some Local Authority areas. We note that the Cardiff trajectory is currently the most similar to that of Swansea Bay.

There is 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 (with one business currently closed and disruption to a large number of other settings (including education settings) and businesses as a consequence of sporadic 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.

There is a lack of capacity regionally to deliver timely surveillance to guide action. Additional support from CDSC, PHW has been sought through the local Consultant in Health Protection.

The continuing increase in cases highlights the lack of capacity in specialist health protection and communicable disease control capability. This workforce is under strain.

The Regional IMT will continue to meet three times a week to balance the considerable operational response demands on IMT members with the ability to maintain situational awareness in line with the periodicity of changes in case rates and numbers.

RAG status currently	RAG status with further increases
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Recommendations and Interventions sought:

At Local Authority level:

To engage with Education Department colleagues on an assessment of the feasibility and impact of changing 'bubble' sizes within secondary schools.

At Welsh Government level:

No recommendations.

Submit completed forms to: HealthProtection@Gov.Wales