

Appendix 1 - Local Outbreak Engagement Board - Assurance report - June 2021

Local Context - data and intelligence

Source	Status	RAG
Early warning indicators	Mobility indicators show increased amounts of contacts since the Roadmap was announced. Early warnings of health impact e.g. NHS 111 calls remain stable. Modelling work suggests rising cases will be picked up more slowly due to asymptomatic transmission and that hospital activity will remain low until the autumn.	AMBER
Cases - weekly rate per 100,000	Case rates have remained low over the past four weeks	RED
Testing positivity ratio	Positivity has risen to 3%, and is at nearly 5% for community testing (Pillar 2)	AMBER
Confirmed outbreaks and clusters	There are a growing number of outbreaks and clusters in schools, workplaces, and hospitality and leisure settings particularly those linked to the night time economy.	AMBER
Neighbouring authorities / region	Rates of Covid-19 are above the national average in Southampton and have risen sharply over the last two weeks, with similar rises seen in university towns in the region. Rates are lower but rising in Hampshire and IoW.	AMBER
Enduring transmission	There are currently no specific local areas of concern.	GREEN
Variants of Concern	Delta variants is clearly the dominant variant in Portsmouth, regionally and nationally. The increased transmissibility of delta compared to alpha is driving the current wave of infections.	RED

Commentary:

The number of new confirmed Covid-19 infections in Portsmouth has risen sharply over the last two weeks as the more transmissible delta variant has become dominant and replaced alpha variant. The pausing of step 4 of the Roadmap will not reduce this spread but will allow more time to vaccinate more of the population, and to better understand the potential impact of delta variant on risk of hospitalisation.

New hospital COVID-19 cases remain low. There is always a lag between rising infections and rising hospitalisations but the younger age profile of current cases suggests this may not lead to pressure on acute systems over the summer. However there is potential for a more significant wave of infections when schools return after the summer and, despite the success of the vaccination programme, this could lead to significant pressure on acute systems that coincides with normal Winter pressures. Covid-19 mortality is very low with one death of a Portsmouth resident within 28 days of a positive test in the last four weeks.

Nationally the delta variant (B.1.617.2), which was classified as a Variant of Concern by Public Health England on 6th May 2021, is now the dominant variant in all regions and is estimated to represent over 90% of all cases. PHE's risk assessment is clear that it is more transmissible, and suggests it leads to greater risk of hospitalisation. There is a reduction in vaccine effectiveness for delta compared to alpha after 1 dose but this reduces to almost nothing after second doses.

Local Activity

Source	Status	RAG
Test and Trace (including self-isolation support)	Bid to extend asymptomatic testing beyond 30 th June to March 2022 now with DHSC for review. Rating as Amber until longer term plans approved by DHSC.	AMBER
Vaccination	Overall uptake is high in cohorts so far eligible. Work is underway to encourage uptake in all population groups. Rating remains Amber as uptake is monitored with programme continuing to roll out.	AMBER
Non-pharmaceutical interventions (including business compliance and PPE availability)	No concerns in this area.	GREEN

Commentary

Testing:

- There has been a large increase in asymptomatic testing uptake in recent weeks, with 150 supervised tests and 1936 self-test kits delivered in the week to 15th June.
- Reasons for the increase in uptake may include the instigation of the mobile service, that moves around the city and offers both supervised and self-test pick up. In addition the closure of the University's testing centre in early June may be increasing footfall.
- A bid was completed last week to extend asymptomatic Community Testing beyond the 30th June to end of March 2022. DHSC is currently reviewing the bid. The proposal continues the current model, comprising a static site with 4 stations, a mobile testing service aiming to engage high risk groups and occupations, and pharmacy testing. All sites offer both supervised testing and self-test kit collection.
- The Local Testing Site at Eldon Road will close on 30th June. The DHSC have approved a new Local Testing Site at Commercial Road, on the former Sainsbury's car park. The new site is planned to operational from 26th June, opening from 08.00 - 13.30 for PCR (symptomatic) testing and 14.30 - 20.00 for (asymptomatic) LFD self-test pick up. The other Local Testing Site in the city at North Harbour has a lease until the end of September 2020.

Contact tracing:

- The Local Contact Tracing Team received 231 cases for local contact tracing in the last 7 days (Thu 17/6 - Wed 23/6), an average of 33 a day. The weekly figure is an increase of 131% on the previous seven day period, when there were 100 cases.
- In May, the case completion rate was 92% (151/165 cases successfully contact traced), in excess of the target rate of 88.4% as achieved prior to Local 0 by the National-Local Test & Trace partnership.
- We continue to monitor ICERT reports daily from PHE, which bring together contact tracing data from Common Exposure Reports and Postcode Coincidence Reports to enhance cluster detection and review for low risk sites that may need further investigation. We share any emerging concerns with partners in environmental health, education or other settings.

Self-isolation support

- The contact tracing team continue to triage referrals to the HIVE for a welfare visit for those people deemed vulnerable that we cannot get in touch with on the phone. As part of our contact tracing interview with all cases checks are made on support needs.
- Work is underway to develop a protocol or pathway for those seeking self-isolation support. This brings together local support and insight from the Local Authority, CCG, HIVE and partners, together with a review of best international practice.

Latest data on requests and payments via NHS Test and Trace Support is outlined below:

	Main Scheme	Discretionary Scheme	Total (Combined)
Number of Applications Received	1434	1144	2578
Number of Applications Paid	635	354	989
Total Paid (£)	£317,500.00	£177,000.00	£494,500.00
Number of Applications Declined	769	758	1527
Number of Applications in Progress	30	32	62

Vaccination

The NHS Covid vaccination programme (CVP) roll out is progressing with access to appointments for local residents at five GP sites for registered patients (one per Primary Care Network) and through the national booking system at two community pharmacies and St James' Hospital - the community vaccination centre. Queen Alexandra, the hospital hub site has wound down as eligible health and social care worker vaccinations have largely been completed.

Phase two of the vaccination programme continues to roll out in descending age order with all adults (18+, including those who turn 18 before 1st July 2021) are eligible to book vaccination. Individuals who have not yet come forward in all of the defined eligible groups can still book and should be encouraged to come forward for vaccination as soon as possible - it is not too late. The national target by which all adults are expected to have been offered their first dose is now 19th July 2021.

Informed by local data and experience of other vaccination programmes, work to address inequalities continues and is a collaborative effort across PCNs, Solent NHS Trust, NHS Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group, Portsmouth City Council and the HIOW Covid-19 Vaccination Programme. Pop up vaccination clinics are being planned for July and outreach work is ongoing to reach individuals who are homeless and those engaged in substance misuse treatment. Local insights work is underway to further understand concerns and barriers in some groups, particularly younger adults within local communities, alongside other engagement activities.

Non-pharmaceutical interventions

Since the extension of the Government's easements until the 19th July the activities undertaken by the PCC Covid Business Compliance Officers (CBCOs) has increased. During this period the hospitality sector has seen a rise in reports of non-compliant activities being identified through public reporting, our partners and common exposure information from Public Health. The expected easing of restrictions, the popularity of sporting events such as the Euros and a desire to return to the expected pre-covid normal on the 21st June are likely explanations for such.

Consequently, the CBCOs have intensified their focus upon hospitality venues to ensure compliance with the amended Health Protection Regulations adopted by the Government on the

16th June and guidance imposed by them until the 18th July. This magnification of effort has increased the number of visits being carried out daily, the number peaking at 60 inspections on the 19th June. Since late October 2020, approximately 9,200 physical interventions have been made to businesses by the CBCOs, with 280 being carried out during the 7 days up to 20th June. Levels of compliance have been very high throughout with an average compliance score over this period of 89.6% and over the last 7 days at 98%. Despite these high levels of compliance, 38 noncompliance's were found during the last 7 days and therefore the officers will be continuing to engage with premises in order to educate and persuade all to comply fully and prevent the transmission of the virus until all restrictions are lifted.

Good availability of PPE locally, and positive feedback around access to this from local providers. Local LRF drops have ended and settings now need to work with existing supply lines - these are broadly working effectively. System for accessing PPE through the LRF is now well-embedded. Notification has been received that providers will continue to be able to access PPE through national supply lines until March 2022. It has now been confirmed that at this point, the portal will remain in place but items will be chargeable. Further consultation with areas about how the model will work post-March 22 is ongoing.

Assurance levels on key risk areas in the Portsmouth outbreak plan provided by the Regional DHSC and PHE Teams as part of the national assurance programme where we FULLY MET 7/12 assurance areas and MET the other 5.

Assurance area	Commentary
High-risk settings	The plan outlines high risk settings and populations, and potentially underserved communities. Section on demographics touches on the size of the BAME population and localities where deprivation is highest. Although these high risk groups are not specifically profiled in the plan by place, the plan does describe the development and use of the HIOW Vulnerability Indices which infers that this tool will be used to identify the most vulnerable groups with respect to COVID-19 outcomes.
High-risk populations & underserved communities	<p>Good level of detail on how vulnerable populations will access information and support. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan describes measures in place for community support around contact tracing for those who are particularly vulnerable and/or “hard to reach”. • Good level of detail on community engagement via PCC local contact tracing service to maximise the trace and isolate components of the COVID response • Clear detail on additional support available for individuals and settings to support isolation, including in the most vulnerable groups/settings • The HIOW COVID Vaccination Programme Equalities Group is working to ensure equity of access to vaccination for vulnerable groups. • Comms and engagement plan in development (linking to HIOW-wide communications and community engagement work) which includes consideration of vulnerable communities- increasing testing and vaccine uptake.

Identified risks

Highest local risk factors are currently considered to be:

- The 'Delta variant' of coronavirus, is currently the dominant strain circulating in Portsmouth as it is across the UK.
- We are seeing cases in the city increase in young adults and those not vaccinated. This is not currently leading to increased hospitalisations locally but we are seeing an increase in Covid admissions in other areas of the country, ie North West of England.
- Risk of increased community transmission as restrictions ease and new variants spread.

RAG: Green = no cause for concern;

Amber = some cause for concern / requires monitoring;

Red = serious cause for concern / requires action