

Members and Parishes update 27/05/20

COVID-19 Update

The cumulative cases in the county are now 1409 up from 1347 with confirmed cases in Stratford on Avon District at 359 up from 351 representing an increase of just 8 new cases since the previous week. Testing is continuing at Stratford College. Out of the 426 SWFT Hospital Beds there are 27 cases of COVID-19 and three cases in intensive care. With the updated ONS figures sadly the cumulative deaths across Stratford District are now 138 which includes 68 from the care home settings. The cumulative total of all COVID-19 deaths in Warwickshire is now 420 and over the same period there have been 2196 non COVID-19 related deaths in Warwickshire. The high number of deaths in Stratford District reflect its older demographic profile when compared to Warwick District, Rugby or North Warwickshire.

Across the county there were 153 COVID-19 deaths in care homes settings compared to 669 non COVID-19 deaths in care homes over the same period.

The capacity in hospitals remains good with 6% of beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. 13% with suspected COVID-19 patients and three patients in Intensive Care. There are 25% of beds occupied by Non-COVID-19 patients and a spare capacity of 56% reinforcing that the NHS is very much open for business!

There continues to be a reduction in the number of cases being hospitalised and the Rate of Infection 'R' is estimated at being 0.8, but this is not a time for complacency and WCC is reinforcing the importance of social distancing and hand hygiene measures being fully adopted' as this is not the time for any relaxation because there are still so many unknowns regarding COVID-19.

There has been a total of 569 cases or suspected cases (increase of 7 in the last week) in 63 care homes settings from a total of 160 homes in Warwickshire and WCC is continuing to focus on infection control in care homes together with testing and has received £7.2 million as part of the government's care home support package of which approximately 75% will be going out directly to every care home at the rate of around £1000 per bed. Test kits are being provided for every care home for testing of both staff and residents.

Test, Track, Trace

Expanded testing programme is available for everyone over the age of five years of age who are symptomatic. Antibody testing is being rolled out in Warwickshire next week to the NHS and care home settings. Public Health Warwickshire (PHW) working very closely with Public Health England (PHE) on the Test, Track and Trace initiative which involves 25,000 operatives in a national call handling centre plus 3000 clinical contact tracing staff. PHW providing localised support for complex special settings including social care, vulnerable adults and children and will be working closely with Stratford District Council's Environmental Health team providing a co-ordinated contact tracing approach. We expect to be one of the new areas to trial the updated TTT starting very soon.

Household Recycling

The online booking system has been working well and the sites open include Burton Farm in Stratford and Princes Drive, Leamington Spa: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/hwrc> More dates will be released on a continuing basis by WCC. So far it has been a real success.

Schools

WCC is working closely with all the primary head teachers on the extended opening of primary schools. In the last week there have been 2700 pupils of keyworkers attend at 212 schools across the county. WCC is addressing each school on a case by case facility discussing smaller classes with a 'bubble' approach to keep the same teachers with the same pupils all day, enhanced cleaning regimes throughout the school settings, phased arrival and finishing times to minimise impact around school gates etc. Up to 97% of primary schools are looking to open next month. Final decisions are to be taken by governors, parents and head teachers.

Business Grants

SDC has now paid out over £31+ million to 2800 (80%+) businesses and organisations which are registered for business rates and the team have worked exceptionally hard in challenging circumstances to help as many businesses affected by the lockdown.

Community Hubs

SDC has played a key role in setting up the Community Hub in Stratford Leisure Centre and delivering food packages to vulnerable and shielded residents across the districts. Over 1000 food parcels have now been distributed and the team has worked extremely diligently and in liaison with WCC.

It would appear that social distancing was observed in Stratford over the bank holiday weekend. This is very welcome and should lead to a gentle relaxation of the restrictions. Our real concern is of course the second spike which, in previous pandemics, has been worse than the first spike.

Best wishes

Mark