

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD
28 SEPTEMBER 2021****COVID-19 Health Protection Board Quarterly Report (July and August of Quarter 2 2021): Delivering Worcestershire's Outbreak Control Plan**

Board Sponsor

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Author

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Priorities

Mental health & well-being

Being Active

Reducing harm from Alcohol

Other (specify below)

COVID-19

Safeguarding

Impact on Safeguarding Children

If yes please give details

No

Impact on Safeguarding Adults

If yes please give details

No

Item for Decision, Consideration or Information

Consideration

Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to note the delivery of Worcestershire's Outbreak Control Plan (OCP), the arrangements for governance and the current situation of Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT) operation.**

Background

2. This quarterly report from the COVID-19 Health Protection Board will describe the delivery of the Outbreak Control Plan in July and August 2021. Therefore, this report will not cover the whole of Q2 (July – September)

3. Quarter 2 has seen many changes in the guidance for how to effectively manage COVID-19 while encouraging a return to business as usual, in line with step 4 of the roadmap.
4. From, 16th August 2021 any contact of a case of COVID-19 who is under the age of 18 and 6 months or is fully vaccinated is no longer required to self-isolate. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-and-support).
5. A contingency framework has been developed to support schools in the management of cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 [Contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings)

Quarter 2 COVID-19 situation

6. As of 01 September 2021, Worcestershire COVID case rate was 265 per 100,000 population, which has remained high since easing of restrictions from 19th July. As a county, Worcestershire has seen COVID-19 rates stabilise at high rates between 200 and 300 cases per 100,000 population.
7. Due to vaccination, hospitalisations have been reduced, but there is still a relationship between case rates and hospital admissions. There are currently around 1-2 hospital admissions for every 100 COVID cases in Worcestershire.
8. Schools returning following summer holidays pose a risk to case rates in Worcestershire and nationally. When schools reopen, the mitigations in place to limit transmission within schools will be much reduced compared to the spring and summer terms. Additionally, the prevalence of infection in the community and school-age groups will be higher than in May 2021. Therefore, the LORT will be monitoring the situation in education settings very closely and continuing to work with schools across the county as required.

Local Outbreak Control Team Activity

9. In Quarter 2 the LORT dealt with a total of 1,000 situations and 2275 individual cases. This was a significant increase compared to the previous quarter, 492 situations and 958 individual cases observed in Q1. The period in June/July was as busy as the January Peak.
10. During May and June there was a significant increase in the proportion of cases in Schools, this continued to increase in July where 390 schools had situations. This accounted for 50% of the workload for LORT during July.
11. Workplace settings have also experienced a high number of situations compared to Quarter 1 (n.142). With 190 situations reported in July and 107 reported in August. This accounted for approximately 30% of the workload for LORT during July and August.

12. ASC settings are experiencing an increase in cases for Q2, this is in contrast to Q1 where there were 70 cases. In July 71 situations in ASC settings were observed and 79 situations in ASC settings were observed in August. This is a significant change compared to Q1.

Contact Tracing

13. The LORT and WRS continue to work together to contact trace cases linked to outbreaks and those who NHS Test and Trace are unable to contact.

14. WRS are now piloting contact tracing all positive cases within Redditch and Worcester as part of covid zero. This means that all positive cases in Redditch and Worcester will be contact traced locally by WRS. This is likely to be shortly expanded county-wide.

Local infectious diseases guidance and advice for education settings

15. The LORT have developed localised infectious diseases guidance for education settings, including a template outbreak management plan. Also included is guidance regarding preventative measures and actions to be taken if there are outbreaks of Covid-19, diarrhoea and vomiting or suspected influenza.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

16. The allocation is now an annual allocation of £2.9m with a £13m carry forward from last year leaving total available grants of £15.9m for 21-22. The allocation of spend was agreed at Health Protection Board in May 21. The total spend up to July 2021 is £1.7 million.

Privacy Impact Assessment

17. As appropriate.

Equality and Diversity Implications

18. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out in respect of the overall Outbreak Control Plan. Impacts and mitigations are described for protected groups. The recommendations will further support action to prevent and control outbreaks that may affect protected groups.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Public Health) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Worcestershire's Outbreak Control Plan:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19/2273/coronavirus_covid-19_outbreak_control_plan