



## **The National Test and Trace service – Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Beacon**

### **Briefing note to Members, week ending 14 August 2020**

*A weekly round-up of news, issues and updates from the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Beacon team. Keep up to date and find more background information about our work at [www.staysafecsw.info](http://www.staysafecsw.info)*

### **Test and Trace – national activity**

On 13 August Government published details of [the test and trace app's privacy information](#) ahead of the imminent launch of an 'early adopter' trial. The intention is to update the privacy information along with the app's functionality based on learning from the trial period. [The Isle of Wight, Newham and NHS volunteer responders across England will be the early adopters.](#)

Government announced on 10 August their [plans to strengthen regional contact tracing](#). The model aligns dedicated teams of national contact tracers to local authorities. Several local authorities have been testing this way of working, including Blackburn with Darwen and Leicester. National test and trace data on local areas is shared directly with public health teams to get a clearer picture of contact tracing needs. The changed model intends to increase the number of contacts traced by using local intelligence to reach people.

### **Beacon update**

This week WCC's head of communications spoke at a national LGA webinar on our Beacon's learning from and approach to responding to outbreaks and promoting campaign messages in targeted ways.

Across the areas the Public Health teams are responding to an increasing number of single cases in workplace or other settings, as well as outbreaks where they occur. We have already recorded some positive approaches by several businesses that received outbreak management letters, who have not only responded very proactively to positive test results, but have also reviewed their actions with us and contributed to improved practices in managing workplace cases.

- Coventry has held a focus group with Positive Youth Foundation and generated some fresh ideas on co-produced messaging and engagement of young people in test and trace and prevention messaging. A youth-focused and driven campaign will launch across the most popular social media channels.
- Solihull is going live with a joint activity with West Midlands Police, whereby SMBC staff support police patrols through a 'ward a week' to provide Covid advice and support, and compliance checks, targeting areas on the basis of increased case numbers and risk.
- Warwickshire has gone live this week on a 'backward contact tracing' project in Nuneaton and Bedworth, whereby officers speak to people with positive test results to track backwards through their movements to look for potential infection points. This should

provide a different avenue for exploring infection patterns than the national contact tracing model, which focuses on who a person with a positive test result might have infected.

Learning from these pieces of work will be shared across the Beacon and with the national programme to inform good practice development.

Communications plans have been drafted to complement the outbreak implementation plans and the local lockdown plans, and are being reviewed this week. The plans clearly set out responsibilities for key individuals, and further strengthens the close relationship between test and trace and communications teams.

We are working with West Midlands Combined Authority to identify opportunities to undertake a telephone survey across the sub-region that would help us evaluate the success and reach of our communications and community engagement activity. The evaluation findings will be of particular interest to the national beacon programme since CSW has adopted this area of work as a unique theme in our sub-regional programme.

### **Emerging focus areas**

One of the strengths of the Beacon is our ability to get real-time information on issues and activity taking place in over-the-border areas and this has helped us highlight areas for additional focus. Public transport can cross several borders, and our ability to map bus routes against test and trace data has suggested a number of services that we want to target with specific information on symptoms and testing. In addition, car sharing has also been identified as a risk activity, and we are reviewing approaches to communicating prevention messaging to those who car share, particularly in and around those areas where we see increased numbers of cases.

The prospect of pupils returning to schools has prompted recent widespread interest in how test and trace links to education. Work is very well established with schools already, and local teams having been working with them to manage positive tests and outbreaks right throughout the lockdown period, as well as advising on aspects of school risk assessments. No new work needs putting in place to prepare for the reopening of schools, but we will increase targeted messaging to address some of the questions being raised.

### **Priority actions**

- Agree triggers for lockdown processes in a range of settings
- Recruitment of additional capacity in test and trace/health protection, and programme management

### **Meetings taking place next week (17 to 21 August)**

- 17 & 19 August – Warwickshire outbreak plan mobilisation group
- 18 August - Coventry Health Protection Board
- 18 August – Solihull Health Protection Board
- 18 August – Solihull stress test ‘rising tide and complex settings’
- 18 August – Warwickshire Member Engagement Board
- 21 August - Coventry Members Panel Update
- 25 August - Coventry Stress Test/Scenario planning (session 2)