



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

Briefing note to Members, week ending 4 September 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

Regional activity

The focus on return to school has seen ongoing communications activity across the sub-region as the new term began. Work is also underway with Coventry University and the University of Warwick around communications and engagement with students and the communities they live in when they return to campus at the end of the month. Work so far on this issue has included the compilation of a community message from both universities detailing the measures they are taking to reduce transmission risks.

The spotlight remains on Birmingham with an announcement expected around current measures today (Friday 4 September).

Beacon activity

Community engagement work continues, with Urdu animations shared with Community Messengers in Coventry. Depending on feedback, other versions in different languages will be developed. Covid advisors have started patrolling key areas within Coventry focusing on businesses and areas where intelligence suggests there is poor compliance with Covid-19 safety measures.

Whilst the holiday period has seen a slight lull in some of the sub-regional workstream activity this week, work has continued in relation to ongoing outbreak and case management by teams as per the protocols and pathways which have been established to aid local responses. A Coventry City Wide Incident Management Team (IMT) met this week in response to ongoing community transmission and will continue to meet weekly for the next month.

Rates across the region continue to fluctuate daily and are being monitored by local teams. However, for the seven days to 1st September, the rates per 100k population as recorded in PHE's West Midlands Epidemiology Summary were:

Coventry	15.0	Solihull	7.4	Warwickshire	6.0
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Local Test and Trace responses continue to be strengthened with the extra capacity needed in environmental health teams being addressed with four EHO contract officers starting work in Warwickshire and two vacancies now filled in Coventry. Coventry this week also welcomed their new Test and Trace Programme Delivery Manager. Coventry and Warwickshire have jointly awarded a contract to two suppliers for community testing and work continues across the Beacon to establish and review our MTU and Local Testing Services.

Communications and engagement

As part of our beacon work it's important for us to understand how communication is working across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire – this will help us focus on developing communication channels and tools that reach people as effectively as possible. The West Midlands Combined Authority has worked with us to commission a Coventry based market research company to carry out telephone survey work across the sub-region to test understanding of communications about test and trace and Covid-19 safety and the campaigns and messaging we've been sharing. The survey work will start next week (week commencing 7 September) and take about two weeks to complete with topline results available at the beginning of October. A follow up survey is planned for December.

Priority actions

- Progressing possible setting up of a new Local Testing Service in central Coventry at Coventry University which can be easily accessed by students but also open to other members of the public.
- Key messaging for residents about the Foleshill Covid testing centre to be finalised and circulated via community messengers and the police messaging system.
- Development of simplified, pictorial guidance for local businesses in Coventry.
- Continue setup of Local Testing Service in Rugby.
- Refresh of the CSW Outbreak Control Plan.

Meetings taking place next week (7 to 11 September)

- 08.09.20 Coventry Covid-19 Mobilisation Group
- 08.09.20 Solihull Health Protection Board
- 09.09.20 Warwickshire Covid-19 Member Engagement Board
- 10.09.20 Warwickshire Health Protection Board
- 11.09.20 CSW Covid-19 Test and Trace Sub-regional Advisory Board