



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

Briefing note to Members, week ending 26 June 2020

Beacon update

We are developing data dashboards across the sub-region which give an up to date picture of COVID in each area. They will be made available to Member Boards and Health Protection Boards when completed.

Coventry is leading work for the Beacon to develop ‘setting specific’ action cards that will give clear instructions for responding to an outbreak in settings such as schools, care homes and businesses.

The testing workstream met this week to consider processes for deploying additional MTUs, and how to ensure testing is accessible to people who can’t currently visit a testing site.

Solihull has piloted a COVID training programme for schools, early years and school nurses with Public Health England. This will be rolled out across the Beacon.

CSW Outbreak Control Plan

We have completed version 1 of the CSW Outbreak Control Plan, which is due to be published on 30 June 2020. The plan, along with the 3 Local Implementation Plans that provide the operational detail on outbreak management in each authority, has been circulated to the appropriate Boards this week and early next week, with final approvals being achieved on 29 June in time for the publication date. These plans are working documents that will be updated as needed.

Mobile testing

Our Beacon status enables us to tap into the Military-led MTUs which have to date been deployed through a national mechanism to supply tests to people who ring the NHS 119 number when they have symptoms.

Using local intelligence, and triangulating data with Public Health England (West Midlands) and national sources, we have identified a pocket of increased positive tests in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Liaising directly with the Military, we have been able to secure two MTUs at Harefield Road car park between 24 and 30 June. This increased capacity and presence is being promoted to encourage people with symptoms to get tested quickly to help limit the spread of the virus.

Supporting cases and outbreaks

All three areas have continued to support the management of cases in the community and to make sure a swift response is available for complex cases that might need extra help. This has including providing advice to schools and special schools managing cases or complex cases, on-going support

to care homes, additional help for vulnerable people self-isolating and advice for local business on safe reopening or dealing with cases.

Communications and engagement strategy

A sub-regional communications and engagement strategy has been developed to support effective co-ordination of overall messaging and share marketing and communications collateral where it's appropriate. Specific communications plans have also been developed for each local authority area. These, along with the sub-regional communications and engagement strategy, will be submitted to Health Protection Boards for discussion and approval.

Work on a microsite (www.staysafecsw.info) is underway to provide easily accessible information in one place across the sub-region with a planned launch date of 30 June. Content will include the Outbreak Control Plan, information about the Beacon programme, background papers and downloadable marketing collateral for sharing with communities alongside links to existing information and material on individual council websites.

New national campaign materials focusing on the continuing importance of social distancing, handwashing, face covering and the Test and Trace programme are now being finalised and discussions are taking place with the national comms lead for the Beacon programme around the ability to localise national campaign material to support local messaging.

In terms of local responses to communications around outbreaks, a meeting will take place shortly with key stakeholders including PHE to agree responsibilities.

Priority actions

- Develop financial plans
- Continue to mobilise outbreak control and implementation plans

Meetings taking place next week (29 June to 3 July)

- 29 June 2020 Solihull Member Board
- 29 June 2020 Warwickshire COVID-19 Member Engagement Board
- 29 June 2020 Joint Health Protection Response Group (every Monday)
- 29 June/ 1 and 3 July 2020 Warwickshire Operational Response Group
- 2 July 2020 Warwickshire COVID-19 Health Protection Board (every Thursday)