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Joined Up Care
Derbyshire

Stakeholder Bulletin

21 September 2020

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Derby and Derbyshire stakeholder bulletin #25



Dear partners

The news this week is very much focused on testing issues with the continued rise in coronavirus cases and the 'R' number also being covered. At our all staff meeting on Tuesday our Medical Director described how this coverage can leave a general sense of foreboding, but highlighted the importance of pausing to try and understand what is happening before giving in to that foreboding and that is what I will attempt to do here.

It is important to put these things into context. First of all cases of cold and flu were almost certain to increase as children returned to school and more people returned to work. As pupils and workers have been sent home with suspected coronavirus symptoms there are more people requesting a test to understand whether they have coronavirus or not.

The most pressing matter is ensuring those that require a test receive one as this will help to stop the

accessed tests did not have symptoms. It is so important that the only people booking tests are the ones who have symptoms – high temperature, new or continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell and taste – and I would be extremely grateful if you could help raise awareness of this important message. It's also important that people do not send their children to school if they are showing symptoms of coronavirus even if they're mild as this also helps to reduce pressure on the testing ecosystem.

If the aforementioned survey's findings were correct, and if we are able to restrict tests to people with symptoms only, this would result in a significant increase in testing capacity. This in turn would mean that a much greater number of people who require tests could get one and more than likely at a site that is not too far from where they live. Much of the response to the pandemic has relied on us all taking actions which in turn lead to positive outcomes - staying home during the peak of the pandemic, washing our hands regularly and latterly wearing face coverings when required to do so. In the 'Derby and Derbyshire' section below you will find a link to a document we have produced providing helpful information about coronavirus testing for patients.

Below you will also find a useful round up of local and national updates along with news from our partners and sources for advice, support and guidance to support wellbeing.

With best wishes and please do stay safe.

Chris

Chris Clayton
Chief Executive Officer
NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG

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National update

Number of registered deaths 15.7% below five-year average

The number of registered deaths in England and Wales in the [week ending 4 September](#) was 15.7% below the five-year average. Just 78 death certificates, 1% of the total, mentioned COVID-19, the lowest figure in 25 weeks and a 23% drop on the previous week.

Tackling testing delays 'number one' priority, says minister

The justice secretary, Robert Buckland, [has said](#) that plans to put the NHS at the top of the order for coronavirus tests will be published in the coming days. He also said that people in care homes would be a priority, while schools could be considered.

See also: [How to get a COVID test](#)

What is the R number and how is it calculated?

The reproduction number, or R value, for COVID-19 is now officially averaging above one across the UK once again - although it varies by region. [This article](#) reminds us what the R number is and how it is calculated.

How does COVID-19 test-and-trace work?

People who have had close contact with someone found to have COVID-19 are being traced and asked to self-isolate for a fortnight. [This article](#) explains what can you expect if someone you have come into contact with tests positive?

England and Wales' contact-tracing app gets launch date

The government has [announced](#) that a new COVID-19 contact-tracing app will be launched across England and Wales on 24 September.

Bans on social gatherings of more than six people are now in place in England

[Here](#) the BBC explains what the new social distancing and self-isolation rules are.

Five reasons why rise in cases is not all it seems

[Here](#) the BBC examines five reasons why the rise in coronavirus cases isn't straightforward.

Campaign aims to prevent spread of coronavirus indoors this winter

The ['Hands. Face. Space'](#) public information campaign urges the public to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates and avoid a second peak.

Statistics

As of 4pm on 16 September 2020, 20,521,243 tests have been confirmed as lab-processed in total. The total number of lab confirmed cases is reported as 378,219, of which 326,425 positive cases have been identified as being in England. Sadly 36,931 deaths in England have been reported as of 16 September 2020.

Update for Derby and Derbyshire

Important coronavirus testing information for patients

[Click here](#) for helpful information about coronavirus testing for patients. Please share wherever you feel appropriate.

Current situation

The number of coronavirus cases in Derbyshire are rising, though the numbers remain lower than the national average and the increase is steady. Most cases are reported to be among the younger age groups (17-24 and 25-35).

Currently our Emergency Departments are at about 80% of pre-COVID capacity. Our elective position continues to improve, along with prior good progress on cancer and diagnostics.

General practice is at about 95% of pre COVID-capacity and in the process of looking at how they can deliver more face-to-face appointments. Practices are reporting an increase in calls being referred from 111/119, likely due to ongoing testing pressure.

All Mental Health, Learning Disability and autism targets will be met or exceeded.

Testing

The demand for testing has increased significantly in the last week and this rise in demand has outstripped

the laboratory capacity for processing tests. This is causing many of the issues that are being documented in the media this week - see also the introduction to this bulletin for more information on this. There are three things we can do as individuals to help protect our testing capacity:

- Only book a test if you or someone you care for has specific symptoms of COVID-19
- Refrain from sending your child to school if they are showing symptoms of coronavirus even if they're mild
- Self-Isolate if you begin to show symptoms of coronavirus even if they're mild

To help protect the capacity of the health and care system, the government is set to announce plans to put the NHS at the top of the list for coronavirus tests. It is understood that people in care homes would also be a priority. We are in the process of looking at how this would work locally. Laboratory capacity is also set to be expanded with new 'lighthouse' labs being opened in the Midlands in the next two to three weeks.

System planning

Our winter plan was reviewed by the Board of Joined Up Care Derbyshire on Thursday 17 September. The winter plan is aligned with the phase three recovery plan which will be submitted to NHSE England and NHS Improvement next week.

Derbyshire Dialogue

'Derbyshire Dialogue' aims to bring the Derbyshire public into more regular discussions about the developments of health and care. [Click here](#) for more information.

Statistics

As at 4pm on 16 September 2020 the East Midlands has a total of 29,278 cases with 1,523 confirmed cases in Derby and 4,015 confirmed cases in Derbyshire. Breakdown of 4,015 Derbyshire confirmed cases: Amber Valley: 525; Bolsover: 420; Chesterfield: 579; Derbyshire Dales: 289; Erewash: 488; High Peak: 543; NE Derbyshire: 686; South Derbyshire: 485.

As at 16 September 2020, 2,953 deaths have been reported in the East Midlands. 227 of these deaths were reported in Derby City and 570 deaths were reported in Derbyshire, of which: Amber Valley: 82; Bolsover: 36; Chesterfield: 64; Derbyshire Dales: 48; Erewash: 77; High Peak: 80; NE Derbyshire: 104; South Derbyshire: 79. One death has occurred since last week's figures were provided.

*Figures as reported at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases>

Health services

Access to primary care services (GP, Pharmacy, Dentist and Opticians)

[This document](#), produced by NHS England and NHS Improvement, provides helpful information about how primary care services are currently operating.

Your GP Practice continues to be open for all health matters

Your GP Practice continues to be open for all health matters as well as COVID-19.

Hospitals

Colleagues at the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust have produced a [short film](#) so patients and visitors at their sites know what to do and expect as COVID measures remain in place.

Colleagues at Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust have a dedicated [information section](#) on their website explaining all the work they have been doing on COVID measures which you can see here.

Help us help you

For more information about the work the NHS in Derbyshire has done to ensure that essential services are safe and available to you when you need them please [click here](#).

Services

Joined Up Care Derbyshire has an area of their [website](#) dedicated to bringing you all the latest health service information.

If you would like to access the individual websites of our hospital and community NHS partners, these are listed below:

[University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust](#)

[DHU Health Care](#) (provider of the NHS 111 telephone helpline for the East Midlands as well as the out of hours GP services in Derbyshire and Leicestershire)

Partner information

World Patient Safety Day

On 17 September 2020, the World Health Organisation, international partners and all countries commemorated World Patient Safety Day. The objective of the World Patient Safety Day 2020 campaign is to raise awareness globally of the importance of addressing health worker safety as a prerequisite to patient safety. We produced a guide for our staff to help them look after their wellbeing and you can [click here](#) to download it as you may also find it useful.

Self-Care September

Action For Happiness are reminding people to take time to look after themselves in what they have dubbed '[Self-Care September](#)'. Self-care isn't selfish, it's essential!

Support, guidance, advice and wellbeing

Alcohol support

If you or someone you know has found yourself drinking more than usual since the lockdown began March then you are not alone. The Royal College of Psychiatrists have this week reported that the number of people drinking alcohol at higher-risk levels in England rose to 8.4 million in June from 4.8 million in February. For more information about alcohol dependency and the support available, see [this page](#) on NHS Choices. You may also find these links to the drinkaware website useful:

[Reasons for cutting down on alcohol](#)

[What to expect when you stop drinking](#)

Help for those experiencing domestic abuse

If you're experiencing domestic abuse, [click here](#) for a list of organisations that can assist you.

Website to support people recovering from the long-term effects of COVID-19

[Your COVID recovery](#) includes information from rehabilitation experts about how to manage ongoing symptoms and health needs at home, and signposts to sources of support.

...ing, health care and support for health, social care and community care.
Support in relation to the COVID-19 virus is available on the Joined Up Care Derbyshire website [here](#).

What you can do to help

Help us to save lives by reinforcing key messages in this bulletin with your key contacts. This should include the updated Government message to stay alert to stay safe. Please use your social media accounts to share only official messages from Government and NHS websites and accounts as there is a lot of misinformation about coronavirus being shared online.

Download previous editions of this bulletin

You can download previous editions of this bulletin [here](#).

Contact

If you have any feedback, or questions, please email us at: ddccg.enquiries@nhs.uk. We are sure you will understand that we are very busy, but we will endeavour to respond to all queries within 72 hours.

Disclaimer:

While every effort has been made to ensure the contents of this bulletin are accurate and up-to-date you will appreciate that the situation relating to the coronavirus pandemic can change rapidly and so NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG do not accept any responsibility of any omission as it is not deliberate. Nevertheless, we will appreciate provision of accurate information to improve our work. Where links are provided to external content, NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG holds no responsibility for such content or accuracy.