

# **BRIEFING NOTE FOR WORCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR**

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council internal GOLD meeting in respect of COVID 19</b>
<b>Meeting number:</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 9th July – 17:00</b>

## **Key Messages**

- Pressure continues to ease on the Acute Trust with only 12 new cases identified over the last 7 days.
- Town centres continue to be busy as non-essential shops have begun to open. District Councils (working in partnership with the County Council) have measures in place to enable safe shopping accepting that people need to be responsible for their own actions
- Worcestershire Regulatory Services visited hospitality venues across the County at the weekend with only minor compliance issues recorded.
- The Worcestershire COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan has been published: [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus\\_covid-19](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19)
- The plan details local governance arrangements, including a COVID-19 Health Protection Board chaired by the Director of Public Health which will implement the Outbreak Control Plan. This board sits under the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- The methodology for reporting positive cases changed on 2 July 2020 to remove duplicates within and across pillars 1 and 2, to ensure that a person who tests positive is only counted once. Numbers of lab-confirmed positive cases throughout this website now include those identified by testing in all settings (pillars 1 and 2).
- Despite the relaxation on social distancing guidance in schools, the three-tier system (smaller schools/lower staff numbers) presents challenges for the wider re-opening of schools in the Autumn.
- Given the above we are working closely with schools to identify options to provide additional capacity in readiness for the Autumn Term. Many schools are looking to use container storage to free up space in classrooms.
- With Leisure Centres re-opening from 25 July there is a need to review the current queuing arrangement for the Bilford Road Household Recycling Centre
- The level of infections in Care Homes in Worcestershire remains stable and in line with levels across the West Midlands. All staff and residents in Care Homes with positive cases of COVID-19 have been tested.
- The Test and Trace service is live. A team of Environmental Health Officers and Public Health Practitioners will provide this locally in Worcestershire.

## **Key Service Areas**

### **Adult Services**

- Increasing concerns re the financial viability of Care Homes linked to a reduction in admissions.
- As with school capacity issues, adherence to social distancing guidance will impact on Day Care capacity provision.
- Recovery planning underway, especially in relation to day service provision for adults with learning disabilities.

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## **Children's Services**

- A total of 9 out of 10 schools in Worcestershire are now open daily to reception, year one, year six and year ten or twelve students, following the wider re-opening of schools throughout June. Attendance across the county's schools has risen to 17.7% of the total proportion of children in school, higher than the national average of 15.6%.
- Positive feedback received from parents, teachers and pupils regarding the experience within schools since the re-opening.
- Worcestershire is the leading authority in the West Midlands for contact with children in Social Care.

## **Community Services**

- Registration Services have now cleared the backlog and several small weddings have taken place.
- The Here2Help Contact Centre has scaled its opening times to reflect the reduction in calls for assistance. Options around extending the service on a more permanent basis, working as a multi-agency partnership with the Health and Care Trust.
- Working together across District and County councils we continue to make contact with shielded individuals whilst the cohort is being advised about changes to advice and guidance

## **Economy & Infrastructure**

- Traffic volumes are estimated to be running at 82% of pre COVID 19 levels.
- Highways surface dressing and maintenance returning to "Business as Usual".

## **Workforce and Training**

- The message continues to be that everybody who can work from home, should work from home. Access to offices should therefore continue to be for essential need only, defined as business critical and cannot be delivered through working from home with digital solutions.
- County Hall has now been certified as COVID Secure and site-specific protocols have been agreed, which includes that access by anyone to the building must be authorised in advance.
- Staff survey launched 9/7/20 to seek views on work experiences over the last few months and the future of greater flexible working opportunities.

## **Communications**

- Developing messages around transitioning to the Recovery Phase of the crisis
- Final newspaper wraparound circulated this week

## **Finance**

- Further announcements of financial support to Local Authorities are expected in the next couple of weeks.

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## **COVID-19 STATISTICS**

Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

The methodology for reporting positive cases changed on 2 July 2020 to remove duplicates within and across pillars 1 and 2, to ensure that a person who tests positive is only counted once. Numbers of lab-confirmed positive cases throughout this website now include those identified by testing in all settings (pillars 1 and 2).

Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 are different kinds of data taken from coronavirus testing. Swab tests for Covid-19 are carried out in hospitals and surgeries as well as in the community all the time. Each pillar comes with specific coverage goals and a set purpose from one or several organisations:

- Pillar 1 data comes solely from the tests carried out in Public Health England (PHE) lab and NHS hospital settings.
- Pillar 2 tests come from out in the community, such as care homes.

The publication of pillar two data will show a marked increase in the number of our confirmed cases in Worcestershire. This data has been available to Public Health and the Director of Public Health for some time and has been closely monitored throughout. In Worcestershire, our figures remain stable and comparatively low for the Midlands. “

Some key statistics being:

<b>Number Testing Positive in Worcestershire</b>	<b>2355</b>
<b>Number Testing Positive in UK</b>	<b>287621</b>

<b>UK</b>	<b>9/7</b>
Number of Tests carried out on the day	245507
Daily Increase in Cases	642
<b>Cumulative Deaths</b>	<b>44602</b>

The government announced it was re-imposing lockdown measures in Leicester last week, after a jump in cases last week. New figures released on Thursday show Leicester still had the highest infection rate in England - with 125 cases per 100,000 people in the week to 5 July (down 16 on the previous week)

The local figures are highlighted below:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>5/07/2020</b>	<b>28/06/2020</b>	<b>21/06/2020</b>
<b>Worcestershire</b>	2.5	3.55	5.74
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	2.1	0.95	0.63
<b>Warwickshire</b>	4.0	5.6	10.33
<b>Shropshire</b>	6.6	7.18	13.74
<b>Herefordshire</b>	1.6	1.56	2.08

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## **WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?**

Reminder that the Here2Help website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help) is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on [www.carersworcs.org.uk](http://www.carersworcs.org.uk) or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>