

RBWM Outbreak Engagement Board

Monday 17th May 2021, 2.30pm, Zoom meeting

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Royal Borough
of Windsor &
Maidenhead

Board Attendees:

- Cllr Price
- Cllr Werner
- Executive Director of Adults, Health and Housing – Hilary Hall
- Communications and Marketing Manager – Louisa Dean
- Consultant in Public Health – Anna Richards
- Head of Housing and Environmental Health – Tracy Hendren
- Head of Communities – David Scott
- Executive Director of Children’s Services – Kevin McDaniel
- Executive Managing Director RBWM, Clinical Commissioning Group – Caroline Farrar

Additional Attendees:

- Cllr Tisi
- Cllr Singh
- Cllr Hunt
- Cllr Stimson
- Cllr Clark
- Cllr Bhangra
- Cllr Shelim
- Cllr Baldwin

Apologies:

- Chief Executive – Duncan Sharkey
- Strategic Director of Public Health - Tessa Lindfield
- Cllr Carroll

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1.	Conflicts of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No conflicts declared.
2.	Questions from the Public	<p>1. My son who has learning disabilities lives in a supported living setting in the borough. He is under 25 as are the other 5 housemates. The parents are all concerned about how much and how long their lives are to be so restricted. He is able to attend college but really that is all he leaves the house for. I think there needs to be some guidance when all people in a setting like this are young have had both vaccines etc they really should be encouraged to re-engage with community life</p> <p><i>The Government has announced that the next stage of the easing of national restrictions will come into effect on the 17th May. It is likely that government will also review the guidance for supported living providers in light of the easing of restrictions. As we move forward, people who use supported living services should be supported to</i></p>

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	<p><i>access community facilities in line with their wishes. However, some degree of caution is needed due to the nature of communal living within a supported living settings. Optalis, who provide adult social care, in partnership with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead have a meeting with supported living providers scheduled for later in May and this will be discussed with providers to see what support can be offered to enable them to facilitate greater community access for people</i></p> <p>2. Current advice is that apart from the under 30s the benefits of receiving the Astra Zeneca vaccine outweigh the risk of blood clotting. But is this true for those who maintain strict precautions including isolation, for whom the risk of contraction of the virus is very small? Can people be offered the choice of an alternative vaccine to the AZ or other adenovirus vector vaccines?</p> <p><i>Epidemiologists broadly agree that the Covid-19 virus is likely to become endemic and circulate for many years, and vaccination is a safe and effective way to protect yourself. Maintaining strict precautions such as isolation would not be recommended in the long term and may have other consequences for people's health.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the current epidemiological situation, and taking into account projected vaccine supply, JCVI are advising a preference for a vaccine other than AstraZeneca to be offered to healthy people under 40 years of age, including health and social care workers, unpaid carers and household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals. This advice may change if there is a change in the epidemiology or an interruption in the supply of the alternative vaccines. Within this age group, those who are older (over 30 years of age), male, from certain minority ethnic backgrounds, in certain occupations at high risk of exposure, and those who are obese, remain at high risk of COVID-19. In the absence of a suitable alternative these individuals should still be offered the AstraZeneca vaccine, and may choose to receive the vaccine, provided they have been informed and understand the relative risks and benefits. They should be given the latest version of the COVID-19 vaccination and blood clotting leaflet. Those who have already received a dose of AstraZeneca vaccine should complete with the same vaccine (see contraindications and precautions).</i></p> <p><i>Outside of this advice and the clinical contraindications set out in the Aztra Zeneca clinical information published nationally, there is no overt choice option for people in relation to the AZ vaccine.</i></p> <p>3. I am concerned that a Fair has been allowed to take place on North Moor. Is this not a Covid risk to the community and are there any Covid safety restrictions in place for the travellers? Are they being offered Covid tests and vaccinations?</p> <p><i>The fair is at North Town Moor and open to the public 15-17 May and 21-23 May. Funfairs were allowed to operate outdoor rides following Step 2 of the Govt Roadmap (from 12 Apr 21) and indoor rides from 17 May 21. The event and its risk assessment were discussed at the Safety Advisory Group on 20 April 2021 and the consensus was that the risk assessments and documentation provided were good with no issues or concerns raised.</i></p> <p><i>Formal enforcement of Covid 19 control measures at funfairs remains the responsibility of either the Health and Safety Executive or the police (e.g. not wearing face-coverings or gatherings). However, RBWM</i></p>

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		<p><i>environmental health are providing assurance visits to newly opening establishments and businesses based on potential health risk and populations. A Covid assurance visit to Traylen Funfair will take place this weekend.</i></p>
3.	Local Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.5 cases per 100,000 population. This is currently reducing. This is also in line with the South East average which is 14.1. England's case rate sits slightly higher at 23.6 cases per 100,000 population. • There are 0 cases for the 60+ age group. The average for South East in this age group is 4.9 cases, and for England it is 6.9 cases per 100,000 population. • RBWM have followed the South East and England pattern throughout the pandemic and are currently sitting in line with the average of the South East and England. • There have been no outbreaks in workplace settings or high-risk settings. The vast majority of the cases within RBWM have been community transmitting. • Weekly case rates at 6th May show the highest rates in people aged 10 – 14 year olds (68 cases per 100,000) and 35 – 39 year olds (57 cases per 100,000). There were no cases for children under 19 or adults aged 70 and over. • The mortality rate in relation to Covid-19 is still low. However, there was 1 death in the week ending 30th April. • The number of Covid-19 patients has decreased in FHFT Hospitals with no new admission on 2nd May. On 4th May, 2 patients were in FHFT Hospitals for Covid-19 with 1 patient on mechanical ventilation. • The number of daily admissions for Covid-19 patients has decreased in Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust hospitals. There were no new admissions on 2nd May. As of 4th May, 1 patient is in RBFT Hospitals for Covid-19, which needed mechanical ventilation. • Over 450,000 people in Berkshire have now received a Covid-19 vaccination (first dose). • Approximately 94% of people aged 80 and over have now received a vaccination in Berkshire and 90% people aged 50 and over. • From 17th May there are changes in terms of the roadmap out of lockdown. This information can be found on the Berkshire Public Health website. • The Government is closely monitoring the variant first identified in India (B.1.617.2) and taking action along with Public Health England, NHS Track and Trace and Local Authorities. • The variant of concern is beginning to spread rapidly in certain areas across the country and decisive action is being taken to further control the spread. This includes additional surge testing, increased genomic sequencing and enhanced contact tracing. Most of the cases are in the North West of England, with some in London. • The best way for people to protect against the virus is to continue following the Public Health advice. • AR advised that people should visit one of the test centres for assistance in ensuring the right technique is used for the lateral flow testing. • In terms of the variant first identified in India, there have been no cases within RBWM. In the South East, the numbers are very low in comparison to the rest of the country. • Secondary school pupils do not have to wear masks in classrooms around the school premises. However, following a meeting with the

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		school heads, it has been decided that schools will ask pupils to continue wearing their masks outside the classroom.
4.	Update on High Risk settings	<p>Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the relaxing of regulations as of today, a number of schools are planning trips, particularly the upper years in primary schools. There will be more mixing and this will be monitored closely. • The messages are remaining the same within schools – ‘Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air’. <p>Care settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no cases within the care settings. • None of the care homes are currently in outbreak. • Vaccinations are continuing, particularly for social care staff. • Free PPE is being given out to all day care providers within the Borough to enable them to resume their services.
5.	Engagement and Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Comms team has completed a big piece of work around the Covid-19 safe elections, making sure everyone in the Borough knew about the safety measures that were in place. • The work around the vaccine myth buster has continued as well as the twice a week lateral flow tests. • Communications were also sent out regarding safety for the three religious festivals. • The rules around the easing of restrictions have been published to the residents. • There has been a promotion of the new test scheme where residents can now collect free tests from reception at five of the leisure centres within RBWM. This is to make it easier for people to get lateral flow tests. • Covid-19 banners have been added to the mobile library vans. • The second community information zoom meeting will be held at the end of May. • There has been additional comms in wards that have had high transmission rates with low uptake of the vaccine. • A press release has been completed for information on the end of shielding. • The weekly e-news letter that goes out to residents has an average click rate of 45%. This has 54,000 subscribed to it. It is possible that this will become fortnightly. • The community champion email continues to be sent weekly.
6.	Enforcement and Compliance Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no outbreak notifications received for workplaces, care homes or schools within the last week. • 2 enquiries around Covid-19. This is reducing significantly. • 29 compliance visits have been undertaken, these were all advisory visits. • 15 food hygiene inspections • The enforcement team have had 3 pub watch events, providing presentations to over 50 landlords on stage 3 of the government’s roadmap and what this means for them. • Next week there will be visits to tourist attractions, indoor play parks and cinemas. Colleagues within trading standards will be visiting pubs and restaurants.

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7.	Update on Vaccination programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccination programme continues at the three main sites that are covering the Borough residents. These are positioned at Maidenhead Town Hall, Windsor Racecourse and the Waitrose sports club site in Bracknell for the Ascot population. • There is continued progress with offering second doses. This has been the main activity in recent weeks. • The number of first doses has started to increase once again now that there is additional supply of the vaccine. • The cohort for 38 year olds has opened up and in recent days so has the cohort for the 35 year old age group. • This week the CCG will be working on how to respond to the public announcements that was made on Friday. • All sites received a letter this weekend to bring forward the timescale. It was 12 weeks between each vaccine, now it will be moved to 8 weeks. • The CCG are also looking at the possibility of a booster vaccine as they may be needed in the autumn. There is not enough information as yet to know what this campaign may look like.
8.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
9.	Date of next public meeting	21 st June 2021, 2.30pm, Zoom meeting