

RBWM Outbreak Engagement Board

Monday 20th September 2021, 2.30pm, Zoom meeting

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Board Attendees:

- Cllr Carroll
- Cllr Werner
- Communications and Marketing Manager – Louisa Dean
- Consultant in Public Health – Anna Richards
- Schools Development Manager, Children’s Services – Clive Haines
- Executive Managing Director RBWM, Clinical Commissioning Group – Caroline Farrar
- Head of Communities – David Scott
- Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Trading Standards - Tracy Hendren (chair)
- Team Leader of Commercial Services – Gareth Moore

Additional Attendees:

- Cllr Hunt
- Cllr Bateson
- Cllr Shelim
- Cllr Bhangra

Apologies:

- Chief Executive – Duncan Sharkey
- Executive Director of Adults, Health and Housing – Hilary Hall
- Director of Public Health Berkshire East – Stuart Lines
- Executive Director of Children’s Services – Kevin McDaniel
- Cllr Price

	Item	
1.	Conflicts of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Carroll declared a personal interest as he was an independent healthcare consultant, infectious disease specialist and vaccines expert and had formerly worked for Sanofi Pasteur. He was currently working as an adviser for the Vaccines Taskforce and Antiviral and Therapeutics Taskforce. Councillor Carroll declared this in the interests of full transparency and to highlight that should for any reason during the meeting, or indeed during future meetings, the Outbreak Engagement Board discussed anything directly related to Sanofi Pastuer’s business he would abstain from the discussion and leave the room as required.
2.	Questions from the Public	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the panel categorically demonstrate the benefit to my healthy 13yr old in having the Covid-19 vaccination, compared to the risks presented? When: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We know the vast majority of children are not seriously affected by covid.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccine was designed at speed for adults. • Trials in children are not complete until 2023. • There is no long term safety data. • Other countries have only been vaccinating children for a matter of months. <p><i>The UK's chief medical officers all agree that while Covid-19 is systematic in most young people, it can be very unpleasant for some and one dose of the vaccine will provide good protection against severe illness. Vaccination for 12 – 15 year olds could also prevent time off school and prevent the risk of spread of covid-19. The Covid-19 school vaccination programme should therefore provide protection for young people and reduce the disruption of face to face education. This will help keep young people emotionally well. The medicines regulator and the Medicines and Health care product Regulatory Agency, or MHRA, has confirmed that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for 12 – 17 year olds. This followed a rigorous review for the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccines in this age group.</i></p> <p>2. Given all the above, is the panel satisfied that 12 year old can make their own informed decision concerning the vaccine without the required consented of a parent? How can the Gillick competence be applied in our schools when there is no long term data for children to evaluate?</p> <p><i>As with all vaccinations consent forms will be used. Parents will have contact numbers for any enquiries. Trained professionals with expertise in vaccinating children will assess every child and their intelligence in regards to the vaccine.</i></p> <p>3. Finally, can the panel reassure us that all children, vaccinated or otherwise will be treated equally with regards to their education, activities and opportunities across all schools and other organisations in the Borough?</p> <p><i>All children will be treated equally regardless of vaccination status, with the guidance provided to schools by the Department for Education.</i></p>
Local Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 288.2 cases per 100,000 population. This represents 436 cases in the last 7 day period. This is an increase on the previous 7 days. This is slightly higher than the South East and England average. The South East case rate is 219.4 cases per 100,000. England's case rate sits higher at 265 cases per 100,000 population. • 108.7 cases per 100,000 population for the 60+ age group. This has also increased and represents 16 cases. • There have been 716.6 individuals tested per 100,000 population. We are testing more than other local authorities across Berkshire, and also South East and England. • 5.9% of individuals tested have tested positive. • All of the wards within RBWM have had cases with high case rates. • Weekly case rates at 9th September show the highest rates in people aged 15-19 year olds (923 cases per 100,000) and 10-14 year olds (601 cases per 100,000). • The number of Covid-19 patients has continued to stay at low levels in FHFT Hospitals 6 new admission on 5th September. On 7th September, 74 patients were in FHFT Hospitals for Covid-19 with 8 on mechanical ventilation.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of daily admissions for Covid-19 patients also remains low in Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust hospitals. There were no new admissions on 5th September. As of 7th September, 33 patients were in RBFT Hospitals for Covid-19, with 19 patients needing mechanical ventilation. • The best way for people to protect against the virus is to continue following the Public Health advice. This can be found on www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk • It has been a number of weeks since RBWM have had a death as a result of Covid. • Over 668,000 people living in Berkshire have now received dose 1 of the Covid-19 vaccination, and nearly 559,000 people have received both doses. • Even with both of the doses of the vaccine, it is still possible to catch Covid-19. The vaccine is less effective in preventing infection, it is more effective in preventing severe disease and hospitalisation.
3.	Update on High Risk settings	<p>Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the return of pupils in September, cases have risen. The schools are managing this through the guidance that is available. If there is an outbreak they are escalating this to their outbreak management plan. • There is different guidance for primary and secondary schools. The public can go onto each schools website and view the school's outbreak management plan. • Schools will continue to ask people to wear masks, however this is a request as it is no longer mandatory.
4.	Engagement and Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The comms team have continued to promote the vaccine take up and the Frimley CCG walk in clinics that they are holding across the Borough. • The NHS app is still being promoted. The team are also using this as a personal Covid radar. • Key safety behaviours, hands, face, space and the importance of twice weekly testing has also continued to be promoted. • There has been some targeted comms on vaccine for 30 – 40 year olds. Some of this has been carried out on LinkedIn because that is where that age groups sit in terms of the team's social media following. • Targeted comms have been done to people working, volunteering or visiting care homes. 16th September was the deadline to have the first dose of the vaccine in order to meet the deadline for mandatory vaccination for November. • The winter messaging from the Government has begun, which the team will continue to promote. • The flu and Covid booster vaccine messages will be shared within the community. A vaccine bus will also visit different areas within the Borough. Information of which areas will be shared on the website and via social media. The wards are being looked at to ensure that the bus visits the areas that will have the most impact but will be available to all residents of the Borough. • There are 5 posts on social media weekly on Facebook, Twitter and Next door. The covid newsletter continues to be sent out which has 53,000 subscribers and a 45% click through rate which is good. • General testing reminders have been sent out.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fortnightly covid email goes to community champions which reaches 150 people. This can then be shared within their communities.
5.	Enforcement and Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 0 enquiries and 0 complaints within the last week. There were also 0 notifications. The contact tracing for schools has changed and there is no requirement for internal contact tracing' as a result the team do not get any notifications through from the schools on a daily basis. The team now meet with Public Health on a weekly basis to identify any clusters where there may be common exposures that may need a follow up. There have been 4 premises identified that have required follow up visits.
6.	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
7.	Date of next public meeting	18 th October 2021, 2.30pm, Zoom meeting