

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

meeting date: THURSDAY, 10 JUNE 2021
title: UPDATE ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the current status of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Ribble Valley.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – None.
- Corporate Priorities - To help make people's lives safer and healthier.
- Other Considerations – None.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Following the report submitted to Health and Housing Committee on 18 March 2021, it was considered important to provide a regular update to members on the current level of infection in the Ribble Valley and to also highlight a couple of recent initiatives.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Numbers of Covid-19 Cases in the Ribble Valley

Week Ending	Daily incidence per 100,000 (7-day Moving Average)	Confirmed Cases (last 7 days)
8/1/21	627	381
27/2/21	79	48
6/3/21	90	55
13/3/21	85	52
27/3/21	51	31
3/4/21	39	24
10/4/21	23	14
17/4/21	8	5
24/4/21	11	7
1/5/21	11	7
8/5/21	21	13
15/5/21	13	8
22/5/21	30	18
27/5/21	130	79

The table shows that the daily incidence and number of confirmed cases declined throughout March and April, although the numbers started to rise again at the beginning of May. This can be attributed to the increased prevalence of the

Indian/Delta variant of concern (VOC) in the neighbouring authorities to the east of the borough.

Since the beginning of March, there have been four minor outbreaks in the Ribble Valley affecting three schools (15 staff and 6 pupils) and a workplace (2 employees).

The mortality rate in the Ribble Valley has continued to be lower than the national mortality rate and since the beginning of March, there have been 2 deaths of Ribble Valley residents (those residents who have died within 28 days of the first positive test result for Covid-19).

3.2 Testing for Covid-19

Symptomatic Testing

Site Location	Number of Tests										
	7-13 January	25 Feb - 3 March	4-10 March	11-17 March	25-31 March	1-7 April	8-14 April	15-21 April	22-29 April	30 April - 6 May	7-13 May
Edisford Road Car Park	481	82	74	122	78	49	54	37	63	59	88
	Number of Tests (number of days on site)										
Ribchester Car Park	92 (3)	-	-	-	-	3 (1)	-	-	-	4 (1)	-
Longridge Civic Hall Car Park	-	-	33 (3)	26 (3)	24 (3)	35 (3)	4 (3)	4 (2)	7 (2)	12 (2)	15 (2)
Weekly % individuals test positive	17.3	4.5%	4.9%	4.7%	2.7%	3.5%	1.1%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.7%
Home testing kits registered	244	126	60	45	51	50	34	13	34	59	73
Care Home testing kits registered	659	358	379	385	358	342	418	376	470	438	501

Since November 2020, a Local Testing Site (LTS) has been located at Edisford Road Car Park, Clitheroe, for testing those residents with Covid-19 symptoms. Two Mobile Testing Units have also been provided from the beginning of 2021, at Longridge Civic Hall Car Park and Ribchester Car Park.

The number of tests has declined considerably from the beginning of January, although the number of individuals tested has recently increased at both Edisford LTS and the Mobile Testing Unit in Longridge.

The Council is currently negotiating an extension of the lease agreement with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), in order for them to continue to use Edisford Road Car Park as a Local Testing Site for a further six months.

Asymptomatic Testing

Lateral flow tests (LFT's) are used to identify positive cases in the community that show no symptoms (asymptomatic). These tests are extremely useful as results are provided within half an hour of testing.

A lateral flow testing centre was established in the Council Chamber at the beginning of February and was relocated to a portacabin on the Council Offices' car park, on 26 April. It is scheduled to remain on site until the end of October.

During the first five weeks following the relocation of the Clitheroe testing centre, 303 staff tests were undertaken and 224 tests were completed on external employees and the general public. The total number of tests (146) increased significantly during the week commencing Monday, 24 May due to a combination of increased publicity and the relaxation of the requirement to pre-book a test.

On 18 May, the Council also opened two pop-up lateral flow testing centres, at Longridge Civic Hall (Tuesday and Friday afternoon) and Whalley Village Hall (Tuesday). In addition to providing free on-site lateral flow testing, the testing centres are also collection points for lateral flow home testing kits (residents can collect up to two boxes of seven kits for free). All three testing centres are currently operated by Lancashire County Council employees.

Surge Testing

All local authorities in Lancashire have been asked to plan for concentrated local surge testing due to the increased number of cases of the Indian/Delta variant of concern (VOC).

Surge testing may typically last between one and two weeks and can involve a number of deployment methods including Mobile Testing Units, door to door drop off and collections, pop up testing, community collect pick ups and postal deliveries.

It is anticipated that any Surge Testing amongst the community will be labour intensive and the Council has been advised that approximately 20 staff may be required for its operation.

3.3 Local Contact Tracing

Dates	Number of cases received	Average days from test to receipt by RVBC	% of cases received where contact tracing has commenced within 24 hours of receipt	% of cases which are 'completed' within 48 hours	Returned to Tier 2 NT&T
					Number
1-7 Mar	5	4.6	100%	100%	0
8-14 Mar	7	3.14	100%	71.4%	0
15-21 Mar	5	3.8	100%	100%	0
22 Mar-28 Mar	4	4.5	100%	75%	0
29 Mar-4 Apr	4	4.0	100%	100%	0
5-11 Apr	0	n/a	100%	n/a	0
12-18 Apr	2	5.0	100%	50%	0
19-25 Apr	2	4.0	100%	50%	0
26 Apr-2 May	2	2.0	100%	50%	0
3-9 May	3	4.67	100%	100%	0
10-16 May	1	3.0	100%	100%	0
17-23 May	3	3.33	100%	100%	0
24-30 May	6	2.33	100%	100%	0

Two full-time and one part-time members of staff are currently employed in the combined role of Local Contact Tracer and Community Hub advisor. There is also a team leader who is responsible for overseeing their work.

Their main role is to contact those positive Covid-19 cases who have failed to either complete contact tracing details online or respond to telephone calls from the National Test and Trace system. They must ensure that all cases are self-isolating and identify the 'Close Contacts' of these cases. These details are then passed back to the National system for them to follow-up.

The table helps to illustrate their excellent work during the period 1 March to 30 May 2021, when they received a total of 40 cases from the National Test and Trace System (in comparison to the 239 cases received from 11 December to 28 February).

48% of cases received were successfully contacted. 34% of cases were closed with no contact possible and this was due to many different reasons including incorrect details provided, the case not answering their phone and cases being in hospital. 14% of cases were contacted but refused to cooperate.

Local Contact Tracing will continue for the foreseeable future, with improvements being made to the system which will allow us to take on cases much earlier in the process. It is recognised that local authorities are more successful at contacting 'hard to reach' cases and the system clearly has a much greater chance of success if delays in contact tracing are reduced.

'Enhanced Contact Tracing' is being used in cases identified as having a variant of concern (VOC). This enables the investigation to focus on where the positive case has been in the previous 14 days before testing positive, which may help to identify when and where the person became infected (especially as this information will be cross referenced with other positive cases).

3.4 Enforcement Action

Since the beginning of March, the Council have received 53 complaints about premises that are allegedly breaking the lockdown rules and two informal notices have been issued. 31 of these complaints were regarding hospitality venues (including food takeaways).

Officers have visited a total of 284 premises, the majority of which were to give advice.

330 Covid advice letters have been sent to licensed premises throughout the borough.

3.5 Vaccination

Number of people vaccinated with at least 1 Dose										
Under 40	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+	TOTAL
5854	2735	3487	4662	4856	4418	3710	3962	2955	3848	40487

Number of people vaccinated with 2 Doses										
Under 40	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+	TOTAL
2187	815	1087	1700	1964	2862	3574	3894	2924	3727	24734

The weekly data published on 27 May recorded a total of 40487 Ribble Valley residents had been vaccinated with at least one dose, whilst 24734 residents had received two doses.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 That Committee note the work being undertaken by the Council in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic.

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For further information please ask for Matthew Riding, extension 4470