

Continuing good news for Wrexham – BUT!



There is continuing good news with the number of cases gradually going down across most of the County Borough but there are still four areas that have come back into the red zone with figures showing an increase. This does not mean that everyone can start relaxing as we have seen this week increases in other parts of North Wales in areas that had been low when Wrexham was high. The virus does not respect county boundaries and can take hold again as quickly as it appears to be dropping. Thankfully, the area has not seen an increase from the various mutations from Brazil and elsewhere.

There are still areas of concern with hospital acquired infections with patients being admitted with no Coronavirus becoming infected.



Next week will be a very testing time for children, parents and teachers as schools gradually move forward to fully reopen. Staff in schools will be accessing testing twice a week and significant efforts have been put in place to make the school settings as safe as possible. All parents should ensure they familiarise themselves with all the school changes and prepare their children for what to expect – each school will have been in touch with parents outlining the safety measures.

Welsh Government - "As primary school children aged three to seven years in foundation phase returned to face-to-face learning, we thank parents for their perseverance during the winter.

"We need your continued support to control the spread of Coronavirus, so please do not send your child to school if they are unwell, even if you are not sure if they have Coronavirus. Please continue to work from home if possible.

"When you take your child to school, always keep your distance from other parents, wear a face covering, and don't stay around and chat. Please do not invite other children or their parents to your home to play or stay, even outdoors, and even if they are in the same bubble at school.

Parents need to play a significant part in making the return safe by still ensuring there is 2 metre social distancing, mask wearing and gathering around the school gate should not be occurring or 'drop around for a cup of coffee' after dropping off children.

The pathway to reopening of other provision in Wrexham is still being planned and so much will be based around the evidence available at each of the Welsh Government three weekly review dates.

TABLE 2: Covid-19 in the Sub-Areas of Wrexham (MSOA areas used by PHW in its Tableau)

TABLE 2 - COVID-19: WREXHAM SUB-AREA DATA FROM 20/10/20 Key: Hot spots' > 100/100,000 population Least (in the last 7 days) since before 20/10/20

SUB AREA	CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION										No. OF CASES	
	Worst since 20/10/20		Best since 20/10/20		Reported 2 Weeks Ago 19th February	Reported 1 Week Ago 26th February	Reported Today 5th March	% change: 20/10 to 28/02	% change: 14 days to 28/02	Decile in Wales: 7 days to 28/02	Cases: 21 days to 28/02	Cases: 7 days to 28/02
	Score	7 days to:	Score	7 days to:	7 days to 14/02/21	7 days to 21/02/21	7 days to 28/02/21					
Acton & Maes-y-dre	910	04/01/2021	<40	28/02/2021	178	<40	40	40	-78	8	10	0-2
Bangor-on-Dee, Overton & Penley	542	08/01/2021	<31	28/02/2021	45	75	31	-77	-31	9	9	0-2
Borras & Rhosnesni	909	04/01/2021	42	18/02/2021	82	124	124	-57	51	1	16	6
Caia Park	1120	09/01/2021	<29	26/02/2021	70	70	42	-79	-40	5	13	3
Cefn Mawr	665	04/11/2020	33	22/02/2021	109	33	76	-30	-30	2	20	7
Chirk & Ceiriog Valley	972	17/01/2021	<31	17/02/2021	62	108	77	-58	24	2	16	5
Coedpoeth & Brymbo	1184	04/01/2021	22	28/02/2021	208	143	44	-64	-79	5	36	4
Gresford, Marford & Rossett	840	08/01/2021	<35	17/02/2021	70	63	77	-50	10	2	30	11
Gwersyllt West & Summerhill	1924	06/01/2021	<34	11/02/2021	68	118	118	-50	74	1	18	7
Hermitage & Whitegate	1622	04/01/2021	34	24/02/2021	91	57	103	-25	13	2	22	9
Johnstown North & Rhosyllen	1288	01/01/2021	<33	24/02/2021	130	49	49	-83	-62	5	14	3
Llay South & Gwersyllt East	1134	08/01/2021	<25	19/02/2021	74	37	50	-69	-32	5	13	4
New Broughton & Bryn Cefn	1147	04/01/2021	64	21/02/2021	77	64	103	-47	34	2	19	8
Pen-y-cae & Minera	891	09/01/2021	<35	28/02/2021	192	<35	35	-90	-82	6	15	0-2
Rhos & Johnstown South	1167	11/01/2021	43	18/02/2021	114	71	71	-82	-38	3	18	5
Ruabon & Marchwiell	936	03/01/2021	<31	23/02/2021	60	<31	75	-80	25	3	10	5
Town North, University & Rhos-ddu	1227	08/01/2021	34	28/02/2021	236	79	34	-75	-86	6	31	3
Wrexham West	1092	12/01/2021	36	27/02/2021	156	72	48	-56	-69	5	23	4
WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH	971	08/01/2021	63	27/02/2021	122	68	65	-68	-47	n/a	333	84

Source: PHW Tableau

Hermitage and Whitegate – 103 per 100k (compared to 57 last week).

New Broughton and Bryn Cefn – 103 per 100k (compared to 64 last week).

Cefn Mawr – 76 per 100k (compared to 33 last week).

Ruabon and Marchwiell – 75 per 100k (compared to less than 31 last week).

Wales' overall case rate has fallen below 50 to 48 cases per 100,000 people over the seven-day period between 23 February and 1 March - the most recent week with stable data.

Vaccine Programme:



The vaccine programme in Wales is on target but the pace has been slowed down for a couple of weeks as changes in production are undertaken that should see a significant increase in availability of the Astra Zeneca vaccine from week commencing 15th March.

The access to vaccines locally and appears to be going well with only a small number of people in each category having to contact their GP as they had not received an appointment. There are however a significant number of people in some categories that are showing a low uptake including people with a BAME background, categories of health workers and care workers.

Whilst having a vaccine is voluntary and there will be people with a wide range of issues as to why they will not take up the offer there is a need to assess the impact that might arise to their own health and those around them if they are unvaccinated. There is lots of information online if people are feeling apprehensive.

[Written Statement: COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy – Guidance for Priority Group 6 \(24 February 2021\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Welsh Government has announced that the revised vaccine strategy will mean that every eligible adult in Wales will be offered a first dose by the end of July. In addition, adults with severe or profound learning disabilities, and those with any mental illness that causes severe

functional impairment, will be invited for vaccination as part of the JCVI priority group six, and Welsh Government has published guidance on identifying eligible individuals in these groups and how to support them to take up their vaccine offers.

“Welsh Government also announced an expansion of workplace and community testing, with workplaces with more than 50 employees now eligible for support to regularly test their workforce, helping to reduce the spread of the virus and allowing them to operate safely.

TTP – Test Trace and Protect

This week showed the importance of providing all the right information when having a test. Thankfully the ‘missing’ person who had a positive test for the Brazilin variant that due to incorrect information or information not being legible initially could not be tracked. So far none of their contacts have been identified as positive- this could however have been significantly different. The Wrexham TTP team have been gaining a consistently high success rate in contacting people who are required to isolate.

AVOW Covid Helpdesk

The Helpdesk will be closing at the end of March after supporting more than 700 people with a variety of support from a vast army of volunteers. Nearly a 1000 people had been recruited and they performed a variety of roles including shopping, pharmacy pickup, dog walking and befriending.

The number of people seeking support has dropped significantly now that various other local community provision has been established to meet ongoing demand.

Full details of the alternatives will be in the next edition of this Briefing.

We would like to thank all the 100s of volunteers that have stepped out to help others - it has very encouraging to see the level of commitment people have given in helping others.

Community impact of Covid: litter



It is a very sad situation that many volunteers are now having to turn out to be litter pickers as the amount of rubbish being dumped around our communities has increased significantly. There is rubbish in many of our playground, paths and further into the countryside. There does not seem to be any logic that someone would go to the country and then empty the entire contents of the car rubbish in laybys.

One community that have come together with the Council Street Scene Team is Cefn but there are many other schemes operating across our county. The ideal scenario is that people should either bin their rubbish or take it home.

“Litter is a mounting problem in our community across the county and WCBC are doing their best to keep our streets clean. However, they need some help and that is down to us not dropping litter and encouraging our friends and fellow residents to take their litter home for disposal in the correct recycling streams. Here we see John Cummins, of Wrexham Street Scene completing his daily task of cleaning our streets. These guys are unsung heroes in our community and literally face some of the worst aspects of the Coronavirus Pandemic as it has been proven by official

bodies that litter is a primary pathway to virus transmission. Unfortunately, during the pandemic all local authorities across the UK have seen significant increases in the amount of waste they have to deal with both sent for recycling and that of litter found on our streets and in our countryside. The litter issue is proving overwhelming, and we all need to play our part in looking after our environment and reducing all possible pathways for virus transmission. Therefore, I urge everyone to be responsible and try to reduce litter.

A further indication of the scale of the problem can be taken from the sharp rise in stock price of aluminium worldwide. As you will no doubt have seen there are plenty of beer cans left lying around our community, and this is not restricted to Wrexham, it is common across the UK and elsewhere. People have been buying large quantities of beer from supermarkets and retail chains in cans and bottles and the sheer number of beer cans has pushed up the price of aluminium.

Hopefully, better days will come soon, and we will be able to reopen our more environmentally friendly venues such as our pubs, and waste will be reduced.

Voluntary organisation in Wrexham launches Community Response Team – more than 150 booked spaces on training as new volunteers come forward to join the CRT.



[Joe Robinson @joerob_leader](#)

AVOW successfully received funding from Welsh Government to develop the response team and the scheme is a continuation of the work it has been involved with during the pandemic.

The team will work in close partnership with regional emergency response services and local community contacts to respond to local emergencies such as flood, missing person searches or extreme weather situations and would be able to offer volunteers for the correct support to the public and emergency services.

The Wrexham Volunteer Centre is now recruiting a bank of volunteers from across Wrexham County Borough. Volunteers will be able to develop a volunteering ‘passport’ for the area which will include a current DBS certificate and access to a wide variety of training and qualifications, all free of charge. There will also be the opportunity to carry out further training for more specific qualifications.

As well as ongoing training and volunteering experiences in preparation for emergency circumstances team members will be offered the chance to volunteer at one-off community events, such as fundraising or sports events, supporting voluntary organisations and community groups within the area.

Wrexham’s Member of the Senedd, Lesley Griffiths, said: “Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, AVOW and its team of volunteers have stepped up and done an incredible job, offering invaluable support to our local communities in these extremely difficult circumstances.

“It is fantastic to see Welsh Government funding making a positive difference in Wrexham. I hope this grant will allow our wonderful volunteers to gain even greater insight and teach them new skills, ultimately enabling them to provide even better services for people in and around Wrexham.”

AVOW is developing the response team in collaboration with Wrexham Council, local community councils, community agents and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

To apply for the opportunity, follow the link to register as a volunteer at the volunteering-wales website at: <https://bit.ly/AVOWVW> and sign-up for the opportunity to become part of the Wrexham Community Response Team at: <http://bit.ly/AvowCRTVW> .

Voluntary organisations and community groups can also benefit from this funding from Welsh Government. Any current volunteers can access the volunteering 'passport' and receive an up-to-date DBS (dependant on the role) and access these training opportunities.

There is also additional training available for organisations such as Good Governance, How to Find a Trustee and Looking after your Assets. Further information and booking for this training can be found at <https://wrexham-volorgs-training.eventbrite.co.uk>.

For more information about the initiative and if you have any other questions, please contact Wrexham Volunteer Centre by email Volunteer.centre@avow.org

AVOW Grant funding extended: APPLICATIONS are now open.

Following additional funding being released by Welsh Government AVOW now has an additional £21,000 to distribute to support local organisations that are responding to the needs of the local community. Amounts up to £1000 can be applied for. Priority will be for organisations that has not yet received any AVOW or Comic Relief funding but previously applicants are also able to apply.

There are various Welsh Government business grants that Community Organisations can access, and information is available via the Council and AVOW-

[Restrictions Business Fund | Wrexham County Borough Council](#) nigel.davies@avow.org



The Council have introduced a twice a week update briefing which is available on their web site. <https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/covid-19-briefing-note-new-variant-spreading-more-people-getting-ill-nhs-under-huge-pressure/> information will be shared around current infection rates in the area and any latest guidance from Welsh Government and Public

Health.

<https://beta.wrexham.gov.uk/service/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information>



Welsh Government advice for Voluntary Organisations

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-the-third-sector-html>

Welsh Government Update:

A full comprehensive list of the various updates for Wales are available on the Welsh Government site <https://gov.wales/announcements/search>



There is a vast amount of information available but be selective or you will spend more time reading rather than providing the resource.

<https://wcva.cymru/coronavirus-statement/>

Information disclaimer:

AVOW hopes to keep this as a fortnightly briefing to share with our community's support information and guidance- if there are issues you want information on email

john.gallanders@avow.org The content of this briefing is provided for information only. It is not intended to amount to advice on which you should rely. You must obtain professional or specialist advice before taking, or refraining from, any action based on the content. We do not accept responsibility for any errors, omissions, misleading statements, or the consequences thereof. <https://avow.org/terms-and-conditions>