

Wrexham Community support response to Recovery stage from Covid

R number is still holding above 1.

Briefing Sheet update 30th November 2020 Issue 29

Update from Mark Drakeford First Minister – 30th November briefing

There has been a ‘stark’ reality statement from the First Minister if people do not adhere to the guidelines-

“MD said the facts are “stark” and if they don’t respond now, advice from experts is that by January 12, the total number of people with Covid in hospitals in Wales could rise to 2,200.

He said unless they act, between 1,000 and 1,700 preventable deaths could take place over winter.

He said all Wales incidence rate was previously 187 cases per 100,000 people and today that has risen to almost 210 cases per 100,000.

Rise in cases among under 25 age groups, and cases are beginning to rise in over 60s in most parts of Wales” Daily Post

At today’s briefing the First Minister has given more information on what will be happening over the next few weeks leading up to the Christmas period.

Considerable emphasis has been placed on the hospitality industry and the need for them to stop selling alcohol after 6.00pm.

Limited information was shared in respect to the current outbreak of hospital acquired Covid Infections or issues around availability of PPE.

There is no indication of localised responses rather the preference at present is to retain an all Wales approach irrespective of the local infection rates.

The support bubbles still remain the same as two households with a possible change for the 5-day Christmas period.

The key driver for restrictions still remains the same – reduction in the infection rates and reducing the number of cases in hospital and the overall effect on the NHS to be able to cope with normal winter pressures.

Lateral Flow Testing in schools has not be ruled out but they will continue the use on some Care Homes and h=Health and Social care to establish the effectiveness of the data.

The vaccine will be playing a significant part in how we in Wales can react to the pandemic and the changes it will bring about. It is anticipated that the first vaccines for the priority category could start to be administered before the end of the week.

There are various new grant schemes being rolled out for SME ranging from £3,000 to £150,000 depending on impact and type of business sector. Full details will be available by the end of the day on the Business Wales website. Due to the very fast uptake of the last scheme many businesses unfortunately missed out, so they are urged to watch for the website updates.

Christmas for so many people is a time for families and friends to come together for parties and family get together, but this year will be so different with restrictions in place in the number of people able to mix.

The Wales Firebreak had an initial impact with cases falling but the gradual increase is certainly causing concern. In some areas of Wales, the rates of infection are as high as they were pre the Firebreak.

Many parts of our community are now being affected and no one should be letting their guard down as the evidence is that transmission rates can rise very quickly if people stop social distancing and gather in larger numbers.

Locally there are unfortunately a rising number of hospitals acquired infections in the Maelor despite an incredible effort by all the staff to eliminate the risks. The Outbreak will mean a number of restrictions will be in place and delays to a variety of non Covid medical services.

There is an Outbreak in HMP Berwyn with a number of staff and men in prison being affected. A number of Care Homes are still having restrictions on visiting as a number are still very fearful of the impact of an infection from staff and across residents and the sad new from Llangollen this week shows what the impact can be with large number of deaths.

A number of changes have occurred within schools now that all secondary school age children and staff in all schools now wear face coverings in communal areas and no teaching settings. Schools are having to be very creative in how they deal with the normal excitement that would lead up to the Christmas holiday period. Many children and young people have had more than one occasion when they have had to isolate since restarting school in September.

With so many risk areas across our communities everyone has a part to play not only in trying to protect themselves but also those around them by following the guidance and looking out for any changes that occur.

Vaccines:

Many people are eagerly awaiting the roll out of a vaccine in the next few months and hoping that these will help to change the way that we will all be able to move around and adapt our lives. It is important to acknowledge that there will be some people who are against the vaccine or undecided. There is no intention of any compulsory vaccine programme so many will adopt an informed choice.

AVOW is involved with various planning meeting at an all Wales level and will be informing voluntary and community organisations on how they can help in a rollout campaign and the recruitment of volunteers for many of the roles needed to roll out such a vast logistical delivery scheme.

There are already a few points that are known that everyone should understand-

1. People will not be able to request a vaccination – everyone will receive a letter from Public Health Wales when the cohorts they fall into are due to attend.
2. As the various vaccines are developed and approved different versions will be available but people will not be able to choose- they type selected will meet anyone's specific medical/health conditions.

3. The locations for Wrexham have not yet been finalised
4. The expectation is still that people living and working in care homes and health professional will be the first cohort start before Christmas.
5. The roll out will take a considerable time with various age categories being the pathway in the New Year
6. Q & A – a briefing sheet will be available shortly that will cover the current frequently asked questions. As this is an unprecedented period there are lots of new questions being asked.
7. Whilst the vaccination programme is being delivered everyone will still have a number of restrictions in place

The extent to which volunteers will be required is not fully assessed yet – AVOW will ensure that any local opportunities will be listed on <https://volunteering-wales.net/vk/volunteers/index-covid>

Shielding:

Although Shielding has come to an end for those that have had a range of medical conditions there are still significant vulnerabilities that need to be considered.

There is specific guidance from Welsh Government to cover the Christmas period for this cohort of people,

<https://gov.wales/christmas-advice-people-who-were-shielding>

<https://llyw.cymru/cyngor-y-nafolig-ar-gyfer-pobl-oedd-yn-gwarchod>

Flu Vaccines: over 50's now eligible for free Flu Jab



Anyone in Wales over the age of 50 will be able to have a free flu jab from December. Contact should be made with your GO or local Pharmacy to arrange an appointment.

It is important that as many people as possible take up this offer to avoid possibly being hospitalised and adding to the winter pressures.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-flu-vaccinations-rolled-out-to-over-50s-from-december>

Food and support network:

The next meeting for organizations and those interested in supporting people with food supplies and support that is organised by AVOW will be on Thursday 4th December at 4.00pm all are welcome to join by Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82658209887?pwd=Rm5iaGo2VFdmTDJVa1p5NENHOTIKQT09>

The meeting will be looking to address the responses received from the Council that had been sent after the last network meeting.

Stress and anxiety in the workplace- FREE support:

There is a **FREE** helpline service available for anyone who is in work with anxiety and mental health issues. The confidential service is provided by the DWP and is available online or by telephone and included access to counselling support for up to 9 months.

<https://bit.ly/36fYe7b>

Funding: Small amount of Comic Relief funding left

There is only a very small amount of funding left in the Comic Relief Fund- anyone interested in applying is urged to do so in the next 10 days. If any additional local funds are identified to be offered through AVOW details will be in these briefings. If you are seeking funds you can contact Nigel.davies@avow.org who has details on a vast range of funders.

Comic Relief Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund



AVOW has received a £26,000 share of the funding from the Comic Relief A Big Night In- the fund was launched on the 13th July and full application is available now from –

<https://avow.org/2020/07/08/comic-relief-grant-fund/> - the criteria are that each project must meet at least one of these themes-

Children survive and thrive – Actions to give children the best start in life and access to opportunities to achieve their potential

Gender justice – Actions to improve equality for women and girls

A safe place to be – Actions to help vulnerable people improve their circumstances and safety

Mental health matters – Actions to enable access to support and increase awareness.



The Council is maintaining an information site where local and national information can be found.

<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>