



**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place and Senior Responsible Officer for Covid-19 Recovery**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>17 March 2021</b>
Subject:	<b>Covid-19 Update</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides an overview of the work by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), partners and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) to manage Lincolnshire's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This report will provide an update and overview of the situation since the most recent report presented to the Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

**Actions Required:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) is invited to consider the report and provide feedback on the proposed local recovery roadmap.

## **1. Background**

This report will set out the current position with regard to Covid-19 and highlight any changes that have occurred since the February report was produced. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February the prime minister set out the exit arrangements that would ease the restrictions incrementally, over the coming weeks and months. Described as a national roadmap, these arrangements were set out in the document "Covid-19 Response, Spring 2021". A link to this document has been included in the section of this report for background papers. In preparation for Lincolnshire's approach to recovery, a report was presented to OSMB in February, and this report will describe how our local arrangements set out in February correspond to the Government's publication of the national roadmap. Prior to providing further information on the recovery, the report will set out the current data position for the county.

## **2. Latest Data**

The latest data reported as of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 is presented in the tables below. In addition, in order to aid OSMB to monitor the direction of travel, a summary of this data in comparison to that presented to OSMB in February is as follows:

- Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population was 111.9 (21<sup>st</sup> February 2021) in comparison to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021, which is reported at 85.7 per 100,000.
- As of the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, Lincolnshire Covid-19 cases reported in the last 7 day period was 852, in comparison to the figure reported on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 which is 652.
- Deaths reported in the last 7 day period up to the 21<sup>st</sup> February for Lincolnshire as defined below was reported as 36, however in the last 7 day period up to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 it was reported as 14.
- Number of Covid-19 vaccines administered up to the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for Lincolnshire was 202,799, as of the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 this was reported as 304,850.

The data position is positive, however this must be considered with caution. As the restrictions are eased over the coming weeks, it is likely to impact on the spread of the virus and in turn the number of cases are likely to increase. Further breakdown of the latest data is below.

## **LATEST DATA**

### **Tests (updated: 14 March 2021)**

	<b>Total Tests Carried Out</b>	<b>Total Positive Tests</b>	<b>% Positive Tests</b>	<b>Positive Cases</b>	<b>Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population</b>
<b>Lincolnshire</b>	<b>126,123</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>85.7</b>
Boston	10,453	94	0.9%	86	122.6
East Lindsey	20,100	154	0.8%	127	89.6
Lincoln	17,730	99	0.6%	79	79.6
North Kesteven	23,589	86	0.4%	68	58.2
South Holland	13,592	155	1.1%	120	126.3
South Kesteven	24,506	125	0.5%	99	69.5
West Lindsey	16,153	90	0.6%	73	76.3

The data in the table above is a rolling 7-day summary of Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 Tests. Data has been extracted from Public Health England (PHE) daily line lists, which provide data on laboratory confirmed cases and tests captured through their Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS). The rates shown are crude rates per 100,000 resident population.

### **Cases (updated: 14 March 2021)**

	<b>Cases in the Last 7 Days</b>	<b>Cases to Date</b>
<b>Lincolnshire</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>38,926</b>
Boston	86	4,598
East Lindsey	127	6,058
Lincoln	79	6,705
North Kesteven	68	5,345
South Holland	120	4,857
South Kesteven	99	6,991
West Lindsey	73	4,372

Data on cases are sourced from Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS). This is PHE's surveillance system for laboratory confirmed cases. Lab confirmed positive cases of Covid-19 confirmed in the last 24 hours are reported daily by NHS and PHE diagnostic laboratories. This is the

most accurate and up to date version of data and as such it will not align with the data that is published nationally ([link to tracker](#)) due to delays in reporting.

### Deaths (updated: 14 March 2021)

Area	Total deaths to 14 March 2021	Total deaths in the last 7 days
<b>Lincolnshire</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>14</b>
Boston	173	1
East Lindsey	378	4
Lincoln	188	4
North Kesteven	216	2
South Holland	181	1
South Kesteven	263	0
West Lindsey	172	2

Total number of deaths since the start of the pandemic of people who have had a positive test result for Covid-19 and died within 28 days of the first positive test. The actual cause of death may not be Covid-19 in all cases. People who died from Covid-19 but had not tested positive are not included and people who died from Covid-19 more than 28 days after their first positive test are not included. Data on Covid-19 associated deaths in England are produced by Public Health England from multiple sources linked to confirmed case data. Deaths newly reported each day cover the 24 hours up to 5pm on the previous day. As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, the methodology for counting Covid-19 deaths was amended and, as such, the total number of Covid-19 related deaths was reduced. Data is available to Local Authorities and the general public here:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/deaths>.

### Community/Asymptomatic Testing Programme (updated: 14 March 2021)

Total Tests	Vol. Positive	% Positive	Vol. Negative	% Negative	Vol. Void	% Void
27,954	363	1.30%	27,412	98.06%	88	0.31%

### Vaccinations in Lincolnshire – Period Covered 8 December 2020 – 7 March 2021 (published: 11 March 2021)

#### Total number of vaccines given in Lincolnshire up to 7 March was 304,850

	Under 60	60 - 64	65 – 69	70 -74	75 -79	Over 80s
<b>First Dose</b>	89,566	32,899	42,420	47,910	36,174	45,826
<b>Second Dose</b>	3,885	540	203	103	89	5,235
<b>% who have had at least one dose</b>		66.6%	88.0%	95.5%	100%*	98.5%

The number of people who have been vaccinated for Covid-19 split by age group published by [NHSEI](#). All figures are presented by date of vaccination as recorded on the National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS) database. \*100% signifies that the number who have received their first dose exceeds the latest official estimates of the population from the ONS for this group.

### Comparison of rates across other neighbouring authorities (updated: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021)

Data for the rate of positive cases per 100,000 population from the last 7 days in Lincolnshire has been compared with neighbouring local authorities (see table below). Compared with the previous week, the rate of infection continues to

decrease across the majority of the Local Authorities. Lincolnshire remains one of the lowest when compared with neighbouring authorities. This continues in a positively downward trend but as we see lockdown measures easing, we may start to see slight increases across some areas. Source: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases>

Upper Tier Local Authority	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (31/01/21 -7 days)	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (07/02/21 -7 days)	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (14/02/21 -7 days)	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (21/02/21 -7 days)	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (28/02/21 -7 days)	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (07/03/21 -7 days)
Norfolk	256.8	179.6	106.2	82.8	<b>47.7</b>	<b>34.4</b> ↓
Lincolnshire	191.9	145.6	117.3	119	<b>102.6</b>	<b>69.6</b> ↓
Leicestershire	228.3	188.8	169.1	165.5	<b>126</b>	<b>87.8</b> ↓
Nottinghamshire	273.1	247.4	203	188.5	<b>136.4</b>	<b>80.4</b> ↓
Peterborough	396	291.2	252.6	259.6	<b>174</b>	<b>132.5</b> ↓
North Lincolnshire	125.9	118.4	92.9	87.6	<b>88.8</b>	<b>90.5</b> ↑
North East Lincolnshire	90.9	96.5	111.6	122.8	<b>111.6</b>	<b>107.8</b> ↓

Source: <https://digital.nhs.uk/dashboards/progression>

### 3. Update on the current LRF response activity

#### Mitigating the spread of the infection

There remains a significant response activity underway; the areas to highlight in this report are below which provides an overview of this work.

#### The Covid-19 vaccination programme

The Covid-19 vaccination programme in Lincolnshire is progressing well with the latest reported data position above. People in the target groups are actively being contacted directly to be invited to attend one of the vaccination centres through agreed mechanisms to receive their vaccine.

#### Media and communications

The media messages will continue to focus on a "stay local" message as lockdown measures are eased. There will be an on-going campaign to maintain and follow the Covid-19 social distancing measures that remain in place. In addition, over the coming weeks there will be a focus on enforcement and compliance where there is evidence that regulations have been ignored.

#### Covid-19 – Testing

The testing programme has seen a change since the last report with wider community testing being encouraged, for employees in the workplace who cannot work from home. On this basis, supervised testing is being made more widely available. The introduction of wider testing for all teachers and pupils attending secondary education has resulted in a rollout of Lateral Flow Tests for Community Collection. This enables home testing arrangements to be put in place for specific cohorts set out by the Government. This is for parents, support bubbles and those

working with school age children. This will then be rolled out wider as more sites come online over the next two weeks, and as the Department of Health and Social Care manages to secure consistent supply chains.

Stage 1 of national road map

Stage 1 of the national easing of restrictions began with the return for all children and young people to face to face learning from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. The number of pupils accessing schools since that date has been very positive. There are currently 50 schools with active cases of Covid-19 across the county. 29 of these have notified Public Health. We expect these numbers to continue to rise as schools start to reopen and pupils complete their lateral flow tests.

LCC's Public Health System Coordinating Centre and Health Protection Team are dealing with all enquires relating to cases and outbreaks within schools, universities, care homes and the community i.e. workplaces. The data will continue to be reviewed nationally, to inform the pace at which the easing of restrictions will be implemented. The next review point will be one week before the 29<sup>th</sup> March when, if the data allows, the rule of six can be reintroduced as part two of stage 1 of the spring 2021 response to Covid-19.

**4. LRF Recovery planning**

The national roadmap released on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, presents the way in which the restrictions will be lifted and gives the earliest dates at which these measures will be reviewed and applied. The three-stage approach, developed for Lincolnshire's recovery journey, was at that point unable to confirm dates as this would be driven at a national level. However, in order to help our local services to plan for recovery, Lincolnshire set out the approach that would be taken. This is set out below against the steps in which the restrictions will be eased nationally to aid understanding of how the two will be implemented.

National	Lincolnshire
Step 1 – Schools return On 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Phase 1 Planning and Preparation
Step 2 – Opening on non essential retail + rule of 6 No earlier than 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Phase 2 Mobilisation and Coordination
Step 3 – opening of indoor hospitality and up to 30 people meet up outdoors No earlier than 17 <sup>th</sup> May	
Step 4 – remaining businesses to reopen i.e. nightclubs no legal limits on life events. No earlier than 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Phase 3 Oversight and Assurance

The management of the pandemic during the response phase has focused upon containing the virus and mitigating its harms. The onward journey requires us to put measures in place to enable us to live with Covid-19 while going about our day-to-day activities.

The formal transition from response to recovery will result in the standing down of the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), the Tactical Coordination Group (TCG) and the cell structure as set out in the Civil Contingencies Act supported by the LRF secretariat. This will be replaced by the Recovery Strategic Coordination Group (RSCG) which will have the responsibility to ensure the recovery process is mobilised and coordinated across the LRF. In addition, this will provide assurance that there is a plan in place and progress is made to a position of business as usual. Based on the Government's road map, this is likely to be no earlier than June for a formal transition, however this will be monitored and reviewed as each of the national steps are activated.

Partners have been supportive of a themed based approach to our recovery. These overarching themes are set out in the table below with the identified lead body.

Theme	Lead Body
Economy & Business	Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
Health & Wellbeing	Joint Working Executive Group (JWEG)
Community & Voluntary Sector Engagement	Community Volunteer Cell (CVC) cell to remain active and refocus their activities

Each have agreed to focus on a joint strategic aim which is "to identify vulnerabilities and address inequalities" within their recovery planning and are now working with the LRF to agree how this will be implemented and evidenced. The on-going active cells will underpin and support the wider thematic work as appropriate and relevant. Leads for each area of work have now been identified and the preparation and planning continues to develop in readiness for the transition in to the recovery phase.

Next steps

In addition to this, Lincolnshire is to develop a local road map which will set out the key areas that will be an important part of our recovery in the next 12 months. This will be a public facing document which will aim to give information and assurance to our residents, that there is a plan in place to support the recovery from the pandemic. The local road map will set out from April 2021 – March 2022 the reasonable expected scenario in the following sectors:

- Health
- Care
- Education
- Business and Economy
- Community
- Events Management
- Compliance, Engagement and Enforcement
- Public Sector Finance

Colleagues from these areas have been asked to contribute to the road map and to provide key milestones that are expected to be achieved. This will enable the county to recover from the pandemic and ensure that we have the appropriate foundations in place.

A vital milestone is the vaccination programme roll out. It is important to ensure that it continues to meet the targets set out nationally, which aims for all adults to be offered a vaccine by the end of July this year. There must be effective plans in place to safely manage the wider re-opening of non-essential retail, including the restoration of events and services during the summer that have not been available due to the Covid-19 restrictions. During autumn, the national winter plan for 2021 will be published; this will indicate if health services and the NHS have the capacity and resources to deal with the winter pressures that may present themselves. If this is the case, then this will be a significant indicator that the recovery process is well developed and an exit strategy will need to be set out in preparation for this.

The outline concept for the Lincolnshire roadmap has been set out for comment. Following feedback from OSMB and input from wider partners, the Warn and Inform cell as part of the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum will develop the concept into a draft document. This will be presented to the Strategic Coordination Group to ensure all partners are sighted on the Lincolnshire roadmap, prior to publication of the final version. It is felt that having a document of this nature will provide a county wide overview of Lincolnshire's partnership work that will underpin our recovery process, and it is recommended that OSMB support this approach.

### A National Day of Reflection

On 23 March, it will be the first anniversary of the day on which the UK first went into lockdown. This will be a day to remember all those who have died and been affected by the pandemic.

### Reporting on Covid-19 during April and May 2021

After March 2021, the next scrutiny committee meetings will not be held until June due to the elections on 6 May 2021. There are a number of options for how the scrutiny function could operate during this time, which mirror the approaches taken during the early days of the first national lockdown when committee meetings could not be held. This could include providing briefing papers to members by email with an invitation to ask questions to officers or provide feedback. In relation to formal decisions that need to be taken during this period, the report for the decision could be circulated by email to members with an invitation to submit comments, which would then be collated by the scrutiny officer for passing on to the decision maker for consideration prior to their decision.

## 5. Exit Strategy

The LRF will continue to work across the partnership to support the delivery of the strategic priorities and will prepare and plan to support an exit from response into the recovery phase when the mitigating measures are in place. The LRF coordinates the response and is satisfied our current reporting procedures and structures are fit for purpose. These will be reviewed periodically to ensure these remain fit for purpose and in line with national policy and guidance.

## 6. Conclusion

Protecting the public's health, and mitigating harm to our residents, families and vulnerable people, will continue to be our priority as we plan for our move from response to recovery.

## 7. Consultation

### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

A full risk register is maintained as part of the SCG.

An Impact Analysis is in place and is a live document which will be reviewed throughout the period of the response. This has been developed from the detailed impact assessment and action plan that has been agreed by the LRF.

## 8. Background Papers

Background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Data on the levels of Vaccination in the UK	<a href="https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations">https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations</a>
Covid 19 response Spring 2021 (National roadmap)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary</a>

This report was written by Michelle Andrews, who can be contacted on 07917 463431 or via email at [michelle.andrews@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.andrews@lincolnshire.gov.uk)