



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

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Date:	25 November 2021
Subject:	Covid-19 Update

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 provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) on the 28th October 2021.

Actions Required:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) is invited to consider the report and provide feedback on the update presented.

1. Background

This report will set out the current position with regard to Covid-19 and highlight any changes that have occurred since the report in October was produced.

The country is learning to live with Covid-19, and the main line of defence is now vaccination rather than lockdown. Although nationally and locally cases have been fluctuating in recent weeks, data continues to show that the link between cases, hospitalisations, and deaths has weakened significantly since the start of the pandemic.

Winter is always a challenging time for the NHS, however this winter could be particularly difficult due to the impacts of Covid-19 on top of the usual increase in demand. It is a realistic possibility that the impact of flu (and other seasonal viruses) may be greater this winter than in a normal winter due to very low levels of flu over winter 2020 to 2021. There is considerable uncertainty over how these pressures will interact with the impact of Covid-19.

It will be increasingly necessary to be able to flex the system to react to different levels of virus prevalence across the country. Seasonality, waning immunity or a more transmissible or vaccine-escaping variant could result in a significant resurgence of Covid-19 in the autumn and winter. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will work with NHS England to ensure that winter plans also include appropriate assumptions and mitigations for potential resurgences of Covid-19 and other health threats that impact on care capacity.

NHS England is working with local colleagues via its regional teams and will continue to work closely with partners including local authorities and voluntary organisations to ensure equal access and maximise uptake of both Covid-19 and influenza vaccines. Details of the government strategy which includes details of the additional measures that could be instigated nationally, if required, were set out in the previous report. The government continues to review and monitor the position; however, the prime minister has confirmed that although there is a plan B set out in the winter plan for 2021, it is not felt that there is a need to instigate that plan at this time. There continues to be an emphasis on personal responsibility and the vaccination programme as the main line of defence against Covid-19.

The report will now set out the current data position for the county. This is prior to providing further information on the local recovery position.

2. Latest Data

The latest data (reported as of the 22nd November 2021) is presented in the tables below. To aid OSMB in monitoring the direction of travel a summary of this data in comparison to that presented to OSMB in October is provided as follows, and should be viewed in consideration of the information provided throughout the report:

- Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population is 404.4 per 100,000 (22nd November 2021) in comparison to the 25th October 2021, which was reported at 521.4 per 100,000.
- On the 22nd November 2021, Lincolnshire Covid-19 cases reported in the last seven day period was 3,099, in comparison to the figure reported on the 25th October 2021 which was 3,996.
- Deaths reported in the last seven day period up to the 24th October 2021 for Lincolnshire as defined below was reported as seven, in comparison in the last seven day period up to the 21st November 2021 it was reported as 16.
- Number of Covid-19 vaccines administered up to the 17th October 2021 for Lincolnshire was 1,131,705, as of the 14th November 2021 this was reported as 1,145,465.

In addition to the data covering Lincolnshire, it was agreed that the report would provide data on cases in surrounding areas of the country. This is to provide a comparison, and for the benefit of the OSMB members this table includes last month's reported figures for reference.

East Midlands comparison table (updated: 21 November 2021)

Upper Tier Local Authority	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (updated 21/11)	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (as reported in October)
Derbyshire	430.8	577.2
Leicestershire	545.7	396.0
Lincolnshire	431.3	555.8
Norfolk	333.4	517.3
North East Lincolnshire	538.4	356.4
North Lincolnshire	522.1	407.0
Nottinghamshire	414.1	459.7
Peterborough	431.8	665.8

As of the 22nd November 2021, the United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust (ULHT) had 83 PCR confirmed cases of Covid-19. This compares to 49 as of the 25th October 2021.

In the last seven days, 86.6% of cases in Lincolnshire that were genome sequenced were the Delta variant. The remaining 13.4% were the Delta Plus (AY 4.2) variant.

Further breakdown of the latest data is below:

Tests (updated: 22 November 2021)

Area	Total Tests Carried Out	Total Positive Tests	% Positive Tests	Positive Cases	Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population
Lincolnshire	58,975	3,499	5.9%	3,099	404.4
Boston	4,183	259	6.2%	233	328.9
East Lindsey	10,369	435	4.2%	386	271.8
Lincoln	7,054	471	6.7%	428	427.8
North Kesteven	10,244	635	6.2%	562	475.7
South Holland	6,858	447	6.5%	379	395.4
South Kesteven	12,088	792	6.6%	692	483.2
West Lindsey	8,179	460	5.6%	419	435.6

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: 22 November 2021)

Area	Cases in the Last 7 Days	Cases to Date
Lincolnshire	3,099	100,563
Boston	233	9,817
East Lindsey	386	17,277
Lincoln	428	15,382
North Kesteven	562	14,761
South Holland	379	11,916
South Kesteven	692	18,768
West Lindsey	419	12,642

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: 22 November 2021)

Area	Total deaths	Total deaths in the last 7 days
Lincolnshire	1,812	16
Boston	192	1
East Lindsey	433	6
Lincoln	211	4
North Kesteven	244	3
South Holland	222	0
South Kesteven	296	0
West Lindsey	214	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 31st 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](#).

Hospital data

Number of beds occupied by confirmed COVID-19 cases as of 8am*	Number of COVID-19 intensive-care beds occupied*	Number of beds on oxygen**	Inpatients diagnosed with COVID-19 in past 24 hours**	New admissions with COVID-19 in past 24 hours**
83	11	30	4	4

* ULHT Corporate Ops as of 07:00 on 22/11/2021

** NHS England Covid-19 Situational Operational Dashboard as of 13:57 on 19/11/2021

Vaccinations in Lincolnshire: Period Covered 8 December 2020 – 14 November 2021 (Published: 18 November 2021)

Total number of vaccines given in Lincolnshire up to the 14th November was 1,145,465.

Age Group	First Dose	Second Dose	% who have had at least one dose	% who have had both doses
12 - 15	15,970	2,281	48.3%	
16 - 17	11,274		73.0%	
18 - 24	47,781	42,641	80.0%	71.4%
25 - 29	33,870	30,838	81.2%	74.0%
30 - 34	36,756	33,985	84.8%	78.4%
35 - 39	36,757	34,828	86.3%	81.8%
40 - 44	37,134	35,679	91.8%	88.2%
45 - 49	41,490	40,308	87.6%	85.1%
50 - 54	51,805	50,687	96.2%	94.1%
55 - 59	55,048	54,065	96.7%	95.0%
60 - 64	50,128	49,148	98.7%	96.8%
65 - 69	45,203	44,746	94.9%	93.9%
70 - 74	48,143	47,837	94.7%	94.1%
75 - 79	37,672	37,467	100%*	100%*
Over 80	45,854	45,562	97.1%	96.5%

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.

3. Update on the current LRF Covid-19 activity

There remains an on-going level of activity underway; the areas to highlight in this report are below. This provides an overview of the work to date.

On the 4th November 2021 the Recovery Strategic Co-ordinating Group (RSCG) received assurance from the Business and Economy group, Enforce, Engage, and Comply group and a representative from Lincolnshire Event Safety Partnership (LESP). The direction of travel is a positive one and where there are ongoing vulnerabilities or risks, plans are in place at an organisational/agency level to address these.

This builds upon the assurance provided in September and October by colleagues from other parts of the system. There remains confidence across the partnership and from our central government RED (Resilience and Emergencies Division) Strategic Resilience Advisor that our processes are robust and fit for purpose.

The Covid-19 vaccination programme

Lincolnshire's vaccination system continues to make good progress, and responds well to the most recent changes and announcements with regard to the cohorts now eligible for both vaccines, boosters, and the influenza vaccine.

Covid-19 – Testing

The wider community testing programme is well established. Testing, both symptomatic and asymptomatic, will remain in place to help identify positive cases and reduce the risk of transmission to others, regardless of vaccination status. Free PCR testing for people with Covid-19 symptoms and free lateral flow testing, particularly for people working in higher risk workplaces and in education settings, will continue in England as part of the government's winter plan. There have been no further updates to the Contain Framework since the last report in October 2021.

Media and communications

The media messages continue to reflect the national and local position, including the key message of the importance of Covid-19 and influenza vaccinations. A refreshed focus is currently targeting the take-up of vaccines for women who are pregnant. NHS data is showing that 20% of the most critically ill Covid-19 patients are pregnant women who have not been vaccinated.

National guidance updates

The Contingency framework: education and childcare settings guidance was updated on the 16th November 2021 to include:

- Changes to the face coverings section setting out when Directors of Public Health (DsPH) can recommend the use of face coverings in communal areas and classrooms;

- Adding Annex B on using face coverings when they are recommended.

Following national consultation, it has been confirmed that NHS staff will be required to be fully vaccinated by the 1st April 2022.

4. LRF Recovery and Exit planning

Recovery is defined in the Civil Contingencies Act, as the process of rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating the community following an emergency.

The local authority is the agency responsible for planning the recovery of the community following any major emergency, supported by other local partners via the Local Resilience Forums (LRF). In most cases, it will be sensible for top tier local authorities to lead, however all local authorities and Category 1 responders should provide input into the process. In the case of the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire County Council was best placed to provide leadership to the recovery process.

Following this emergency, the local authority has co-ordinated the multi-agency recovery process, including by chairing and providing the secretariat for the RSCG, with support from LRF multi-agency partners. This work usually begins once the response phase has been completed, however due to the longevity of the response phase and the complex nature of this emergency, recovery operated in parallel to response during the spring of 2021 and into early summer.

In spring of 2021 the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) set out three phases to their Covid-19 recovery journey:

1. Planning and Preparation
2. Mobilisation and Coordination
3. Oversight and Assurance

The LRF is now in the final stages of the 'oversight and assurance' phase of the recovery. This stage began when the formal LRF Response command structures were stood down on the 24th June 2021. The Lincolnshire journey towards recovery has continued as planned and the overall position in the county remains cautiously positive. The Recovery Strategic Co-ordination Group (strategic commanders) and the Recovery Leads Group (tactical commanders) have continued to meet regularly through this period.

The forward plan set out as part of these arrangements has now been completed. The partnership recovery roadmap is also on track with the first three quarters completed ahead of schedule, and the fourth quarter on track for delivery by the end of March 2022.

On this basis, on the 2nd December 2021, the RSCG will be required to consider next steps.

Process to stand down the Recovery Strategic Co-ordinating Group

The Chair of the RSCG, in discussion with the RSCG members, will decide when it is appropriate to stand-down the group. The length of time that the RSCG is required to continue meeting will vary according to the nature and scale of the emergency. Some emergencies may have long term issues for Emergency Response and Recovery to consider, such as health monitoring. The RSCG will be stood down once there is no longer the need for regular multi-agency co-ordination and the remaining issues can be dealt with by individual agencies as a part of their normal business and existing partnerships. Depending on the recovery issues being addressed, it may be possible for some of the RSCG sub-groups to close prior to the main RSCG standing down.

A decision to stand down the Recovery command structures is not on the basis that recovery from Covid-19 has been achieved, or that the activity of individual agencies in recovering from the pandemic will come to an end. Conversely, the basis of the decision is on whether there remains a need for the Local Authority to provide ongoing multi-agency co-ordination and additional governance mechanisms.

Post exit arrangement plan

The ongoing recovery in all sectors will take time, in some instances years rather than months. To support the need to maintain links, share information and build on the existing partnership the LRF recovery team will provide details to all LRF members on how to access support across the wider system to maintain ongoing resilience.

This section of the report will now set out the post exit arrangement plan.

Following confirmation that additional government funding for public health authorities will remain in place until the end of March 2022, there continues to be local capacity to manage the ongoing demand of testing and tracing provision, as well as the continued need for public health advice and support to all partners. The Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) will monitor this work until it is agreed that it will be stood down. Ongoing health protection enquiries will be responded to via healthprotectionteam@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

For communications the LRF Warn and Inform group will remain active as part of the LRF core business activities and can be contacted via the group Chairperson Shaun Gibbons (shaun.gibbons@sholland.gov.uk) or Vice Chairperson Hannah Williams (hannah_williams@n-kesteven.gov.uk).

LCC's Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team will continue to support delivery of the statutory requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act, in order to ensure frontline responders remain prepared to deal effectively with the full range of localised, regional and national emergencies. For any ongoing LRF Covid-19 recovery advice or to access support for any emergency situation, partners can contact lincsEP@lincoln.fire-uk.org.

5. Conclusion

From the 2nd September 2021 to the 4th November 2021 the Strategic Commanders of the RSCG, and the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum, have sought assurance from key agencies and partners with regard to their current and onward Covid-19 recovery plan. Three themes were identified as priority areas on which to focus our countywide recovery journey (on behalf of our residents):

- Health and Wellbeing;
- Business and Economy;
- Community and Voluntary sectors.

To enable the Strategic Commanders to seek the assurance required it was requested that representatives from each of these areas would provide a focused presentation of their position and plans for recovery. These are available for review on Resilience Direct.

The presentations provided were:

- The NHS
- Public Health
- Education (Primary, Secondary, FE/HE)
- Community and Voluntary sector
- Business and Economy sector
- Engage, Enforce and Comply Group
- Lincolnshire Event Safety Partnership (LESP)

The aim of the forward plan was to provide assurance that the strategic themes/areas set out for the recovery had sustainable plans in place for their onward journey. All the presentations have provided an opportunity to reflect on the recovery work undertaken to date across the wider system. Each has been able to provide assurance of the current position and the plans that are in place to address the ongoing challenges and vulnerabilities brought about by Covid -19.

At the December meeting of the RSCG, Strategic Commanders will be requested to reflect on the information received to date and asked to consider the next steps for recovery based on the remaining Covid-19 objectives, risks and vulnerabilities. The group will be asked by the Chairperson if the membership require any further assurance from LRF partners. If the information and evidence gives assurance that recovery can be sustained within everyday core business capacity, then the likely outcome will be a decision to stand down the existing recovery command structures.

On this basis Lincolnshire County Council will be in a position to safely withdraw the resources from both RSCG and Recovery Lead Groups, as the recovery journey can continue without the need for these additional resources to be in place.

It is therefore anticipated that the report to OSMB on the 25th November 2021 will be the final report to be provided by the Assistant Director – Corporate Recovery. Future

information and data required by OSMB with regard to Covid-19 will be provided via the public health team.

6. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

A full risk register is maintained as part of the RSCG assurance process.

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

7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Data on the levels of Vaccination in the UK	https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations
Covid-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-autumn-and-winter-plan-2021
Covid-19 response Summer 2021 (Step 4)	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-summer-2021-roadmap/covid-19-response-summer-2021
Covid-19 contain framework: a guide for local decision-makers	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers
Travel to England from another country during coronavirus (Covid-19)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19

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