

# Agenda Item 6

		<b>THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE</b>	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of Derek Ward, Director of Public Health

Report to	<b>Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire</b>
Date:	<b>16 December 2020</b>
Subject:	<b>Covid-19 Update</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides a summary of the Covid-19 Winter Plan, issued by the Government on 23 November 2020 and the implications for Lincolnshire. An overview of the latest Covid-19 data for Lincolnshire will be provided at the meeting.

**Actions Required:**

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is asked to note the content of this report.

## 1. Background

### 1.1 Context

The [Covid-19 Winter Plan](#), published by the Government on 23 November 2020, sets out the arrangements for managing the virus from 2 December 2020 when the national lockdown was lifted. It also provides details of the revised tiering system and the steps to be taken to return to normality.

The Government's strategy has three objectives:

- Bringing R below 1 and keep it there on a sustained basis
- Find new and more effective ways of managing and enabling life to return closer to normal
- Minimise damage to the economy and society, jobs and livelihoods. Education will be safeguarded in nurseries, schools, colleges and universities.

## 1.2 Route Back to Normality

### 1.2.1 Vaccination Programme

The first Covid-19 vaccine has been approved by the regulators and the roll out is happening from December 2020. The Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI) is advising the government on the prioritisation for all the vaccines based on consideration of the final phase 3 clinical trial data.

Frontline health and care workers, people over the age of 80 and care residents will be amongst the first to receive the vaccine.

### 1.2.2 Treatment

The Government is funding clinical trials into effective treatments for Covid-19 as there will continue to be a need to manage the virus even as vaccines are rolled out, especially for those people who cannot be vaccinated. Potential treatments are being tested in primary, acute and intensive care settings and further trials are being planned.

### 1.2.3 Testing

The Government is working to improve turnaround times for testing and is working with local Directors of Public Health (DPHs) to ensure local authorities play a key role in helping to deploy testing to support people most at risk of having the virus and in settings where there is the highest risk of transmission. This will be supplemented by work to improve contact tracing which will include the roll out of tracing partnerships with local authorities to ensure a greater proportion of people who have tested positive are reached and helped to self-isolate.

To date, testing has focused on symptomatic testing but the winter plan sets out steps to introduce frequent testing as an alternative to the need for self-isolation for people who have had close contact with someone who has Covid-19. Instead, contacts will be offered regular tests as an alternative to isolation and only have to self-isolate if they test positive.

The priority for the expansion in asymptomatic testing is set out in the table below and there is a plan to increase capacity further in 2021.

<b>Rapid Testing Strand</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>NHS Patient facing staff</b> – <i>testing to be offered to all high contact staff twice a week</i>	Already underway
<b>Care home staff and residents-</b> <i>increasing the frequency of testing to twice weekly for staff and weekly for residents</i>	To go live in December
<b>Care home visits</b> – <i>test available for up to two visitors per resident to be tested twice a week in all care homes</i>	Pilots underway, rollout early December
<b>High risk extra care &amp; supported living staff and residents</b> – <i>twice weekly testing for staff and weekly for residents</i>	To go live in December

<b>Rapid Testing Strand</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Registered domiciliary care staff – testing available weekly</b>	To start rollout immediately
<b>Other social care settings – testing other home care workers including personal assistants</b>	Phased introduction from December
<b>Food manufacturing plants – beginning weekly testing for all staff</b>	Pilots underway, national rollout in December
<b>Closed settings including prisons and asylum centres – weekly testing for all staff and prisoners</b>	Pilots underway, phased introduction to start in December
<b>Vaccine/testing operational staff – weekly testing for key staff in operational delivery and the supply chains</b>	To go live December

As a Tier 3 area, Lincolnshire is able to introduce a community testing programme to target specific populations or high significant settings. A Local Testing Strategy for Lincolnshire is currently being developed.

### **1.3 Tiering Approach in England**

The tiered regional approach in England was reimposed when the lockdown measures were lifted on 2 December. The aim is to suppress the virus through the winter period and target measures at the appropriate geography to stop outbreaks at source. The new tier restrictions are summarised in Appendix A. The tiers are, overall, more restrictive than those applied in October.

The Government will review the tiering allocations every **14 days**. However, as prevalence remains high it is likely that it will be longer before many places move down tiers. The tiering regulations will lapse at the end of March 2021, at which point the Government will need to return to Parliament with any proposals for further economic and social restrictions.

The latest data will be used to inform decision making, including the impact of current measures. Decisions will primarily be based on five key indicators:

- Case detection rates in all age groups;
- Case detection rate in the over 60s;
- The rate at which cases are rising or falling;
- Positivity rate (the number of positive cases detected as a percentage of tests taken);
- Pressure on the NHS, including current and projected occupancy

## **2. Consultation**

This report is for information and noting.

## **3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

Not applicable

#### 4. Conclusion

This report summarises the new approach being taken in England to suppress the spread of the virus and ensure life returns to some form of normality as quickly as possible.

5. **Appendices** – These are listed below and attached to the report.

Appendix A	Summary of Measures under each Tier in England
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#### 6. Background Papers

Document	Where it can be accessed
Covid-19 Winter Plan for England	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-winter-plan">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-winter-plan</a>

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Summary of Measures under each Tier in England

	Tier 1 – Medium Alert	Tier 2 – High Alert	Tier 3 – Very High Alert
<b>Meeting friends and family</b>	Maximum of six indoors or outdoors, other than single households or support bubbles	No mixing of households indoors – apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors	No mixing of households indoors or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public places
<b>Bars, pubs and restaurants</b>	Venues must be table service only. Must stop taking orders at 10pm and close by 11pm	Pubs and bars must close unless operating as restaurant. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Last orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm	Hospitality is closed with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive through or delivery
<b>Retail</b>	Open	Open	Open
<b>Entertainment</b>	Open	Open	Indoor venues closed
<b>Personal care</b>	Open	Open	Open
<b>Travelling</b>	Walk or cycle if possible. Avoid travel into Tier 3 areas except for work, education, medical attention or caring responsibilities	Reduce the number of journeys made where possible. Avoid travel into Tier 3 areas except for work, education, medical attention or caring responsibilities	Avoid travelling out of the area, other than where necessary such as for work, education, medical attention or caring responsibilities. Reduce the number of journeys made where possible.
<b>Overnight stays</b>	Permitted with household, support bubble, or up to 6 people	Permitted with household and support bubble	No overnight stays outside of local area, unless for work, education, medical attention or caring responsibilities
<b>Accommodation</b>	Open	Open	Closed with limited exceptions such as work or where people cannot return home

	<b>Tier 1 – Medium Alert</b>	<b>Tier 2 – High Alert</b>	<b>Tier 3 – Very High Alert</b>
<b>Work and Business</b>	Everyone who can work from home should do so		
<b>Education</b>	Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Registered childcare, other supervised activities for children and childcare bubble permitted		
<b>Places of worship</b>	Open but cannot interact with more than six people	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble
<b>Weddings and funerals</b>	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.
<b>Exercise</b>	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors but must follow the rule of six indoors. Organised activities for elite athletes, under 18s and disabled people can continue.	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under 18s and disabled people can continue.	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with household or bubble.  Organised activities for elite athletes, under 18s and disabled people can continue.
<b>Large Events – elite sport, live performances and business</b>	Open to the public but limited to 50% capacity, or 4000 outdoors/1000 indoors (whichever is lower). Social contact limits apply.	Open to the public but limited to 50% capacity, or 2000 outdoors/1000 indoors (whichever is lower). Social contact limits apply.	Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.