



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:	28 January 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 presented on the 17th December 2020.

Actions Required:

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

1. Background

At the Board meeting in December 2020, the report set out the progress and activity of Lincolnshire's Local Resilience Forum (LRF), highlighting the challenges we face and the threat, risk and harm we must mitigate.

As highlighted in the December report, response and recovery will overlap depending on the 'R' value. This will be monitored and reviewed regularly which will inform the on-going work of the LRF.

The Covid-19 Winter Plan set out how the national lockdown restrictions in place during November could be safely lifted on the 2nd December 2020.

This approach targeted the toughest measures only in areas where the virus was most prevalent, while maintaining a geographical scale that reflected the interconnectedness of local areas. This approach was based on SAGE advising that stronger measures were needed in some areas to prevent the epidemic from growing. Areas were allocated to tiers based on the Joint Biosecurity Centre's (JBC) analysis of the following:

- Indicator 1: Case detection rates in all age groups.
- Indicator 2: Case detection rates in the over 60s.
- Indicator 3: The rate at which cases are rising or falling.
- Indicator 4: Positivity rate (the number of positive cases detected as a percentage of tests taken).
- Indicator 5: Pressure on the NHS, including current and projected occupancy.

As reported in the paper to OSMB on the 17th December, from the 2nd December 2020 Lincolnshire was placed in Tier 3 following the end of the national lockdown during November. The intention was to review these arrangements nationally every two weeks until further notice. As of the 16th December, Lincolnshire remained in Tier 3.

The Covid-19 Winter Plan arrangements set out how the Government intended to allow the mixing of households in England for the Christmas period from the 23rd December to 27th December 2020; these were to be known as "Christmas Bubbles".

However, due to the rising number of cases across the country and the identification of a new variant of the virus, these arrangements were revoked and replaced with new arrangements that were announced on the 19th December. The new arrangements allowed the mixing of two households for Christmas day only, with no overnight stays unless these were part of a support bubble. In addition, people were advised to only travel from home to a place which was accessible for a return trip during that 24 hour period. Following this, the existing Tier system would be enforced once again and would remain in place until the next review period on the 30th December 2020.

As of the 30th December, Tier 4 restrictions were announced with many parts of the country including Lincolnshire placed in this Tier from midnight that day. This placed even greater restrictions on our residents; this was in response to the rate of infections increasing at a national level.

As the New Year began, there were rising calls for schools to return to online learning from the start of term. Although schools reopened on the 4th January 2021 in line with Government advice, as of the 5th January it was confirmed that schools would close to all children except for those of key workers and those children who were vulnerable.

On the 6th January a further period of national lockdown began in England which is expected to remain in place until at least mid-February. For information on these restrictions see link at the end of this report.

2. Latest Data

As of the 25th January 2021, the latest data for Lincolnshire can be found in the tables below.

Tests (Updated: 24 January 2021)

	Total Tests Carried Out	Total Positive Tests	% Positive Tests	Positive Cases	Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population
Lincolnshire	43,279	1,907	4.4	1,596	209.7
Boston	5,866	173	2.9	143	203.8
East Lindsey	6,577	169	2.6	139	98.1
Lincoln	6,517	326	5.0	285	287.0
North Kesteven	6,542	263	4.0	210	179.6
South Holland	4,805	294	6.1	260	273.6
South Kesteven	7,706	486	6.3	394	276.6
West Lindsey	5,266	196	3.7	165	172.5

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: 24 January 2021)

	Total Cases to Date	Cases in the last 7 days
Lincolnshire	32,228	1,596
Boston	3,772	143
East Lindsey	5,226	139
Lincoln	5,916	285
North Kesteven	4,410	210
South Holland	3,612	260
South Kesteven	5,634	394
West Lindsey	3,658	165

Data on cases are sourced from Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS). This is PHE's surveillance system for laboratory confirmed cases. Laboratory 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: 24 January 2021 at 16:00)

Area	Total deaths on 13 January 2021	Total deaths in the last 7 days (17 January 2021 – 23 January 2021)
Lincolnshire	1,273	66
Boston	162	1
East Lindsey	324	9
Lincoln	154	6
North Kesteven	171	14
South Holland	141	8
South Kesteven	176	13
West Lindsey	145	15

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

Vaccinations – Period Covered 8 December 2020 – 17 January 2021 (Published: 21 January 2021)

	First Dose		Second Dose		Cumulative Total of Doses 8 Dec 2020 – 17 Jan 2021
	Under 80	80+	Under 80	80+	
Lincolnshire	22,682	24,253	1,136	1,562	49,633

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.

3. Update on the Current Priority Response Activity

Mitigating the spread of the infection

The public health measures introduced to mitigate the transmission of Covid-19 include social distancing, Test and Trace, and the wearing of PPE including face masks, all of which continue to reduce the spread of the infection and risk to life within Lincolnshire. While the vaccination programme is mobilised and embedded it is crucial that this remains a priority. The new variant identified within the UK is more transmissible which resulted in the decision nationally to increase the restrictions across the country further. Therefore, the key message during this lockdown period is "stay at home" to protect our NHS. These measures are underpinned by law. Police and other authorities will have powers to give fines and break up gatherings. Enforcement action has increased and will remain a focus over the coming weeks.

It is therefore more important than ever to promote the key message of Hands - Face – Space when leaving home for essential reasons only.

- **Hands** – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.
- **Face** – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- **Space** – stay two metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or one metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors).

The Covid-19 vaccination programme

As reported in December, Lincolnshire began its vaccination programme from the 8th December 2020 with the priority groups as advised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The initial priority groups are:

- Over 80 year olds
- Health and care staff
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)
- Those between the ages of 70-79 years.

People in these groups are actively being contacted directly to be invited to attend our vaccination centres through agreed mechanisms to receive their vaccination. At the start of the vaccination programme, there was a drive to ensure priority groups received both their first and second dose of the vaccine, with the advised duration between them depending on the type of vaccine administered. However, due to the concerns regarding the new variant and its ability to be more transmissible, Government policy on this approach changed. This has resulted in some Lincolnshire residents receiving both doses of vaccines in the early roll out of the

programme, with the focus now to administer the vaccine to as many people as possible within the groups identified above using just one dose.

The roll out of the vaccination programme has continued to expand since its launch with more sites now operational across the county. The two types of vaccine approved for use across the UK are being made available to Lincolnshire to ensure the programme is rolled out as quickly and effectively as possible.

Ambitious targets have been set nationally with regard to the timeframe for local areas to administer the vaccine to these groups. Lincolnshire is progressing well overall despite some initial delay; examples of this are where vaccination centres went live later than others and where vaccine deliveries have experienced delays. These were reported and managed on a case-by-case basis and solutions found where possible to do so. The report in February will be able to give further details of the progress to the targets set.

In addition to ensure the allocation of vaccines to the county is maximised and to avoid unnecessary wastage, a plan is in place to contact individuals at short notice where appointments have not been taken/attended.

The LRF would like to acknowledge the enormous amount of time and effort that has been required by partners to set up the vaccination and testing sites across the county. Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers that have played their part in mobilising the delivery of these sites, particularly throughout the Christmas and New Year period. Information on the number of vaccines administered is being made available nationally on the link at the end of this report.

Covid-19 – Testing programme

Since the report in December, Lincolnshire has had the opportunity to receive support to have temporary targeted community testing sites set up within the county. These have been located in Lincoln and Boston. These sites offer members of the community, on a voluntary basis, Covid-19 Lateral Flow tests. These new temporary sites are for people who are not displaying symptoms. This approach looks to identify asymptomatic people within the community who when tested have the virus, local contact tracing is then offered along with a further test to confirm the outcome of the initial test. This is useful in identifying members of the community that may be spreading the virus without their knowledge as they do not have any symptoms; there has been positive engagement from members of the public in this service.

Community Testing

Site	Total Tests	Vol. Positive	% Positive	Vol. Negative	% Negative	Vol. Void	% Void
Sincil Bank	2298	42	1.83%	2250	97.91%	6	0.26%
Haven High	1405	10	0.71%	1382	98.36%	13	0.93%
Peter Paine	2236	26	1.16%	2194	98.12%	16	0.72%
TOTAL	5939	78	1.31%	5826	98.10%	35	0.59%

These sites are separate and in addition to the testing sites for people displaying symptoms.

4. LRF Activity

Lincolnshire remains in the response phase of this emergency. The LRF is working hard in identifying problems and vulnerabilities in our community, which may require priority attention and feeding them back to the relevant response cells, the Tactical Coordination Group (TCG) and to the Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) as required. In addition to this they have a role in disseminating credible information and advice back to the community, supporting community cohesion and providing public reassurance. This includes the possibility of a parallel emergency, such as flooding; plans and partnership arrangements are in place to support this if required.

The current active cells for reference are listed below.

- Multi-Agency Information Cell
- System Coordination Centre
- Health and Social Care Cell
- Vaccination Cell / Vaccination Roll Out
- Communities and Volunteer Coordination Cell
- Mortality Planning Cell
- Engagement, Education and Compliance Cell
- Business and Economy Cell
- Warn and Inform Cell

5. Exit Strategy

The Government has reiterated it is committed to ensuring the right levels of intervention are in place, to help the country get through the winter months until the vaccine is widely available and recovery is able to progress. However, the Government has not yet released the details of the route out of the current national lockdown and further details will be reported in due course. There is increasing pressure for there to be further information about when schools will reopen to all pupils.

The LRF will continue to work across the partnership to support the delivery of the strategic priorities and will prepare and plan for an exit from the response phase into recovery 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.

6. Conclusion

Protecting the public's health, and mitigating harm to our residents, families and vulnerable people will continue to be our priority.

The Council and its strategic partners have developed the appropriate governance arrangements to lead Lincolnshire's recovery from the impact of Covid-19 when the

time is right, whilst ensuring arrangements can be flexed to respond to any future spikes in infection rates.

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
The health, economic and social effects of COVID-19 and the tiered approach	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-health-economic-and-social-effects-of-covid-19-and-the-tiered-approach
2021 lockdown restrictions	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home
Data on the levels of Vaccination in the UK	https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations

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