



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:	17 June 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 briefing paper provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) on the 20th April 2021.

Actions Required:

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

1. Background

This report will set out the current position in regards to Covid-19 and highlight any changes that have occurred since the briefing paper in April was produced.

On the 22nd February, the prime minister set out the exit arrangements that would see the incremental easing of restrictions. 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 background papers section of this report. The Government has since been able to ease restrictions as planned in step one, step two, and most recently step three (17th May). This third step reintroduced indoor entertainment including the reopening of venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; as well as indoor adult group sports and exercise classes. This step has also allowed some larger performances and sporting events to occur (with limitations depending on the venue). In addition some non-essential international travel was able to be reinstated. This was to a limited number of countries which met certain required criteria. A traffic light system has been introduced

which indicates the requirements travellers must meet in order to travel to and from other countries. Each country will be assessed as red, amber or green. It is intended that this list will be reviewed every three weeks. Countries identified as "green" provide the least risk in regard to Covid-19 transmission. This is based upon the rate of Covid-19 infections, the vaccination programme roll-out, and the presence of any specific variants of concern. Very few countries at the time of writing this report are on the green list and the reciprocal arrangements for each of these countries vary significantly and may not be in place at all. Therefore international travel (for non-essential reasons) remains very restricted.

The final step in the roadmap was planned for the 21st June. However the prime minister's announcement on Monday 14th June confirmed that this final step of easing restrictions will be delayed until 19th July 2021. This equates to a four week extension with a review to be undertaken after two weeks.

The delay means limits remain on how many people can meet, with groups of up to 30 allowed to meet outdoors, and up to six people (or two households) allowed indoors.

A very limited number of restrictions are being lifted from 21st June (as initially planned). These are:

- The number of guests at weddings and wakes will no longer be limited to 30, however venues will have to adhere to social distancing and hosts must undertake a risk assessment. Table service will be required - with six people per table - and no indoor dance floors will be allowed.
- Care home residents will no-longer have to isolate for 14 days after returning from visits outside. Exceptions will include high-risk trips such as overnight hospital stays.
- Children can go on overnight trips in groups of 30 with, for example, the Scouts or Guides, or as part of summer residential schools.
- Some large events pilots will continue, including additional Euro 2020 matches as well as a number of other sports, arts, and music events.
- Social distancing precautions are to be maintained.
- The indoor 'rule of 6' is to be maintained.
- Working from home is to be maintained where users can continue to do so.
- The night time economy i.e. nightclubs is to remain closed.

This is a result of increasing concern with regard to the impact of the Delta variant in some parts of the country. The aim is to provide additional time for vaccination levels to increase across the country.

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 14th June 2021) is presented in the tables below. In order to aid OSMB in monitoring the direction of travel a summary of this data in comparison to that presented to OSMB in April is provided as follows:

- Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population was 26.8 per 100,000 (19th April 2021) in comparison to 11th June 2021, which was reported at 26.5 per 100,000.
- On the 19th April 2021, Lincolnshire Covid-19 cases reported in the last 7 day period was 204, in comparison to the figure reported on the 13th June 2021 which was 202.
- Deaths reported in the last 7 day period up to the 18th April 2021 for Lincolnshire as defined below was reported as 2, however in the last 7 day period up to 13th June 2021 it was reported as 0.
- Number of Covid-19 vaccines administered up to the 28th March 2021 for Lincolnshire was 508,280, as of the 6th June 2021 this was reported as 861,263.

In addition to data covering Lincolnshire, it was agreed that the paper would provide data on cases in surrounding areas of the country. This is in order to provide a comparison.

Upper Tier Local Authority	Rate of positive cases per 100,000 (updated 08/06)
Derbyshire	26.4
Leicestershire	55.5
Lincolnshire	22.7
Norfolk	15.5
North East Lincolnshire	62
North Lincolnshire	23.2
Nottinghamshire	30.9
Peterborough	23.7

The data position for Lincolnshire is at a similar level to April. There had been a drop in the rate of infections during the last month; however there has been a rise in confirmed cases as we have moved into June. The number of vaccinations provided has significantly increased since the report in April and the number of Covid-19 related deaths recorded in the last seven days is nil. There is cautious optimism that the rise in cases will not result in significant numbers of hospitalisations; however with new variants of concern this must be considered with caution. There are currently a rising number of cases linked to the Delta variant first identified in India – this variant is increasing infection rates in other parts of the U.K. as well as locally. The data suggests this is mainly within the unvaccinated population i.e. the cohorts under 40 years of age (which are likely to be more resilient to serious illness or Covid related deaths). As and when the restrictions are eased, there are likely to be impacts on the spread rate of the virus and in turn the number of cases may increase.

Further breakdown of the latest data is below:

Tests (updated: 11 June 2021)

	Total Tests Carried Out	Total Positive Tests	% Positive Tests	Positive Cases	Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 Population
Lincolnshire	85,184	253	0.3%	202	26.5
Boston	6,685	27	0.4%	21	29.9
East Lindsey	14,408	49	0.3%	42	29.6
Lincoln	9,528	22	0.2%	25	25.2
North Kesteven	15,110	33	0.2%	22	18.8
South Holland	10,425	39	0.4%	22	23.2
South Kesteven	17,534	52	0.3%	40	28.1
West Lindsey	11,494	31	0.3%	30	31.4

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: 13 June 2021)

	Cases in the Last 7 Days	Cases to Date
Lincolnshire	202	42,414
Boston	21	5,113
East Lindsey	42	6,579
Lincoln	25	7,020
North Kesteven	22	5,637
South Holland	22	5,568
South Kesteven	40	7,705
West Lindsey	30	4,792

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: 13 June 2021 at 16:00)

Area	Total deaths	Total deaths in the last 7 days
Lincolnshire	1,622	0
Boston	176	0
East Lindsey	388	0
Lincoln	195	0
North Kesteven	222	0
South Holland	189	0
South Kesteven	267	0
West Lindsey	185	0

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

Hospital data (Updated: 13 June 2021)

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Patients admitted		Patients in hospital	Patients on ventilation
Latest daily	Total	Latest available	Latest available
0	2,879	4	0

This data comes via the daily summary from gov.uk

Community/Asymptomatic Testing Programme (updated: 10 June 2021)

Total Tests	Vol. Positive	% Positive	Vol. Negative	% Negative	Vol. Void	% Void	Number of Community Collection Packs issued
38,173	398	1.0%	37,653	98.6%	115	0.3%	12,015

**Vaccinations in Lincolnshire – Period Covered 8 December 2020 – 6 June 2021
(Published: 10 June 2021)**

Total number of vaccines given in Lincolnshire up to 6 June was 861,263

Age Group	First Dose	Second Dose	% who have had at least one dose	% who have had both doses
Under 30	28,076	17,540		
30 -34	26,923	9,663	63.0%	
35 – 39	31,646	10,788	74.8%	
40 – 44	34,849	12,739	88.2%	
45 – 49	41,362	18,411	84.3%	
50 – 54	50,523	37,864	92.3%	69.2%
55 – 59	54,216	45,040	97.8%	81.2%
60 – 64	49,125	45,407	99.5%	91.9%
65 – 69	44,898	43,560	93.2%	90.4%
70 – 74	48,574	47,774	96.8%	95.2%
75 – 79	36,415	35,832	100%*	100%*
Over 80	45,430	44,608	97.7%	95.9%

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 response activity

Mitigating the spread of the infection

There remains an ongoing level of response activity underway; the areas to highlight in this report are below. This provides an overview of the work.

The Covid-19 vaccination programme

The Covid-19 vaccination programme in Lincolnshire continues to progress well (please see the latest reported data position above). Following the confirmation nationally (as of the 15th June) persons 23 years of age and over are now to be offered a first dose of the vaccine.

Media and communications

The media messages continue to reflect the national and local position including the key message of hands-face-space-fresh air. This will continue as lockdown measures are eased. There will continue to be an on-going campaign to maintain and follow the Covid-19 social distancing measures that continue to 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 wider community testing programme is now well developed and continues to be encouraged locally and nationally. Home testing arrangements have been put in place with distribution and access being made more widely available via an online ordering facility. The development of local collection points have also progressed through the use of pharmacists and other local access points.

The roving model provides assisted testing and will offer community collection for Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) devices to reach rural areas and target other groups where engagement is low.

4. LRF Recovery planning

The next step for our local area is to agree how and when we will progress through to the next and final phase of recovery; 'oversight and assurance'. Whilst nationally a four week delay to step 4 has been announced by the prime minister, the Lincolnshire journey towards recovery has continued as planned and the overall position in the county remains cautiously positive. As previously reported to OSMB, Lincolnshire had set out a three phased approach for 2021 to our local recovery which was aligned to the national roadmap. The local transition timeline reflected the government's methodology with a "no earlier than" approach to progressing through each phase of the process.

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

The timeline for transition that was set out in the report on 12th May to the Lincolnshire Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) has progressed as planned with the remaining dates set out below.

Transition timeline to date for local recovery

Date	Activity
June 10 th	Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) to take 'temperature check' on recovery timeline
June 14 th	National announcement expected on decision for move to step 4
June 15 th	Present position / update to LOEB
June 21 st	Earliest date to progress to national step 4 (Delay to 19/07/21 confirmed)
June 24 th	Earliest date for local formal transition to recovery (Phase 3 recovery)

An alternative anticipated timeline has been developed which would enable Lincolnshire to align transition into phase 3 with a revised national position if required. This has been based on the information in the media prior to the formal announcement on the 14th June. Three options were presented to SCG on the 10th June, setting out the timetable to transition to the "assurance and oversight" phase of recovery.

The three options are outlined as follows:

Three options

- A. Current position is positive however SCG to review current position again in two weeks on 24th June. This is to reconsider impacts of the national position prior to taking a decision to progress to recovery.
- B. Proceed as planned regardless of any national delays to the road map.
- C. Reflect any national changes in the local timeline for recovery i.e. the four weeks delay to the national roadmap would result in formal transition locally to recovery on 5th August rather than 8th July.

Proposed local criteria for transition from response to recovery:

1. The infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations (which would put unsustainable pressure on the local NHS).
2. All LRF partners are operating at a level which does not necessitate a Strategic Co-ordinating Group to facilitate their activities.
3. Current data suggests that Lincolnshire's vaccination deployment programme will continue successfully.
4. National and local assessment of risks is not fundamentally changed by new variants of concern.

Alternative timeline:

Date	Activity
June 10 th	SCG to take 'temperature check' on recovery timeline
June 14 th	National announcement expected on decision for move to step 4
June 15 th	Present update to LOEB
June 21 st	Earliest date for progression to national step 4
June 24 th	SCG review local data position and national timeline to inform transition
July 8 th	SCG maintain response structures rather than transition to RSCG
July 12 th	Possible review date of national road map step 4 implementation
July 19 th	Possible date for step 4 if government proceeds with 4 week delay
July 22 nd	SCG review national position/local data with a review of transition timeframes
August 5 th	Earliest date for Lincolnshire transition to recovery – first meeting of RSCG
August 19 th	RSCG meeting to progress recovery agenda
September 2 nd	RSCG monthly cycle begins with forward plan as set out in table above.

Recovery current progress and position

The 'planning and preparation' phase has been completed and the 'mobilisation and coordination' phase has progressed well - therefore the systems, processes, and monitoring tools are in place to support the full transition as and when the time is right for Lincolnshire.

The recovery journey in most parts of the system is progressing well. The local partnership recovery roadmap that has been developed demonstrates that the expected position by the end of June for Quarter 1 is on track to be delivered and achieved in all service areas identified within the document. The recovery process is fluid and intended to flex in line with unexpected changes that occur.

A forward plan has been set out to manage the Recovery Strategic Coordination Group (RSCG) activity to ensure the desired outcome is achieved. This desired outcome is a safe and effective exit plan for recovery as soon as it is safe to do so. There will be a standard agenda for RSCG with a forward plan that has been mapped against the Lincolnshire Roadmap. This is to ensure consideration and action is steered toward potential triggers/challenges to the recovery journey.

The timetable if we were to proceed as set out in May 2021 would be as follows:

Date	Activity
June 24 th	Earliest date for local formal transition to recovery (Phase 3 recovery).
June 29 th	The recovery leads group continues to meet fortnightly
July 8 th	Proposed first RSCG - to meet fortnightly through July & August if needed
September 2 nd	RSCG moves to monthly meeting with forward plan as mentioned

In addition each monthly meeting from September 2021 will have a focused presentation from identified partners. This will provide assurance that the direction of travel is a positive one, and that where there are delays or concerns corrective action is being implemented to mitigate any negative impact on the journey and prevent where possible any consequential impact on other parts of the system.

The forward plan will also form the basis of the recovery exit planning process along with the partnership road map if the expected scenarios in Quarter 2 have been achieved, and if Quarter 3 is on track for the delivery at the end of December 2021. Partners attending RSCG each month should, with this information, be able to have confidence that assurance has been sought and that there are plans in place for a sustainable onward journey for the services and residents of Lincolnshire. This proposal is a reasonable expected scenario. There is potential within the coming months for the recovery journey to progress at a faster pace than set out above. There will be continual reflection on how the system is collectively progressing. The RSCG agenda for September will review the forward plan to ensure it is fit for purpose at that time. If there is confidence that exit could be earlier than December 2021, a revised meeting schedule/forward plan would be issued to account for this.

The timeline has been presented to the Strategic Coordination Group (SGG) with the engagement and involvement of the Recovery Group as part of the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF). This has been presented along with the alternative options to consider due to the current national position.

The outcome of the temperature check was that the SCG partnership supported option B; to proceed with the Lincolnshire transition timeline as set out above. On this basis if there are no additional concerns that are raised prior to the 24th June, the first formal meeting of the Recovery Strategic Co-ordination Group will be the 8th July 2021.

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 are 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

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 Spring 2021 (National roadmap)	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary

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