



ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

BRIEFING FOR MPs

16th April 2021 - COVID-19

Dear Colleague

Please find below a summary of the key issues arising from the briefing that took place on Friday, 16th April 2021.

Situation within communities

Incidence for the Health Board area for the last 7 days is currently reported as 12.5 per 100,000 population, similar to the previous week's rate of 13.0. The rate per 100,000 population for each Borough is:

- Newport 25.2 per 100,000. 2.2% positive
- Blaenau Gwent 14.3 per 100,000. 1.2% positive
- Caerphilly 9.9 per 100,000. 1.1% positive
- Torfaen 6.4 per 100,000. 0.7% positive
- Monmouthshire 1.1 per 100,000. 0.1% positive.

The overall positivity rate for the Health Board area is 1.3%.

Situation within our hospitals

There are currently 15 patients in our Intensive Care Unit at the Grange University Hospital. 1 of these patients is COVID-19 positive.

There are currently 1,509 patients in our in-patient beds; 4 have tested positive for COVID-19; 36 patients are awaiting results; 12 patients are recovering from COVID-19 and 1,457 patients are being treated for something other than COVID-19.

Non-COVID-19 demand in our assessment units and the Emergency Department remain high and we are seeing a continued increase in cardiology and also stroke patients. This correlates with the impact of cold weather on an individual's health.

Situation within care homes

9 care homes have on-going incidences related to COVID-19, this is a reduction from 13 incidents last week:

- 1 in Blaenau Gwent. 1 member of staff/0 residents.
- 3 in Caerphilly. 5 members of staff/5 residents.
- 0 in Monmouthshire.
- 2 in Newport. 2 members of staff/3 residents.
- 3 in Torfaen. 6 members of staff/3 residents.

14 members of staff and 11 residents have tested positive with COVID-19. No new concerns raised at the most recent closed setting group yesterday and residents affected now very low.

As at close of play on Wednesday 14th April, the mobile unit team successfully offered dose 2 vaccinations in all of the 97 older adult care homes (that are included in JCVI Priority group 1), this represents 82.5% of the cohort. The team will continue to ensure mop up sessions are offered for residents or staff.

Vaccine rollout now virtually complete with a couple of homes requiring mop ups due to incidents, but we are confident that all residents and staff will have had both doses by end of this month. Further work is ongoing on maintaining IPAC controls and guidance with homes.

The visiting guidance has been worked through with homes and risk assessments continue to ensure homes are able to facilitate visiting where it is safe to do so.

Update on the mass vaccination programme

Up to 15 April, 314,445 first doses and 108,920 second doses of Covid-19 vaccinations have been given across the Health Board, through a blend of mass vaccination centres, GP and mobile team delivery.

95.6% over 80s, 96.5% of people aged 75-79 years and 96.3% of people aged 70-74 years have been vaccinated. 92% of over 50 year olds have been vaccinated, as has 67% of 40 – 49 year olds out of a cohort of over 74,000.

The following centres are operating next week (19th-24th April), over varying hours with attendance by appointment only:

- Newbridge and Newport – Monday to Saturday
 - Ebbw Vale – Wednesday to Saturday
- To note that the centres will be operating over varying hours.

The focus will now start to shift focus to the 35 – 39 year olds and will move through the age groups as per the vaccine supplies expected and in line with the Joint Committee Vaccines and Immunisation guidance. The Health Board is also given consideration to adapting clinics so that we are able to respond to the differing needs of age groups.

Restarting Services

I provided you with an update on restarting services, and building on what was contained in previous letters, I can also confirm the following details:

- Ongoing monitoring of activity on the orthopaedic pathways at St Woolos and Royal Gwent Hospital. To date all is going well and this week will have delivered 34 cases through the new ward at Royal Gwent Hospital
- We are in the final stages of reviewing demand and capacity plans to fully understand the impact of the changes in demand, and the impact of COVID-19 and social distancing on our capacity. We will then work through the deliverability of schemes to address the gap of number of patients we forecast will be waiting over 36 weeks as a result of the impact on COVID-19 on elective care over the last year.

Hospital Visiting

We discussed the review taking place by the Health Board's Nosocomial Transmission Group (NTG) regarding visiting. A change of approach has already been put in place for birthing partners, and the NTG are now considering other specialities and what is clinically appropriate for different health conditions and health care settings. We will provide further information as soon as we are able.

Long COVID

During the meeting we also discussed the future impact on services from those in our population suffering with long COVID. To respond to this increasing demand we are developing a more bespoke offer to support the rehabilitation for patients. To further support the delivery of services, as well as existing programmes such as weight management and musculoskeletal interventions, the Health Board has increased the numbers of therapists coming out of training who will join the team.

There is a national COVID recovery app, as well as information, and this can be found on the following web site: <https://healthhub.wales/covid-recovery-2/>

I trust that this briefing covers the key issues addressed, and that if there are further enquiries, that you will not hesitate to contact me.

Judith Paget
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive