

## **ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD**

### **BRIEFING FOR MPs**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 - COVID-19**

Dear Colleague

Please find below a summary of the key issues arising from the briefing that took place on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

#### **Situation within communities**

Incidence for the Health Board area for the last 7 days is currently reported as 13.8 per 100,000 population, slightly higher than the previous week's rate of 12.5. The rate per 100,000 population for each Borough is:

- Newport 26.2 per 100,000
- Torfaen 19.2 per 100,000
- Caerphilly 8.3 per 100,000
- Monmouthshire 7.4 per 100,000
- Blaenau Gwent 1.4 per 100,000

The overall positivity rate for the Health Board area is 1.5% with a target of achieving below 5%.

#### **Situation within our hospitals**

There are currently 17 patients in our Intensive Care Unit at the Grange University Hospital. All of these patients are negative for COVID-19.

There are currently 1,536 patients in our in-patient beds; 3 have tested positive for COVID-19; 24 patients are awaiting results; 11 patients are recovering from COVID-19 and 1,498 patients are being treated for something other than COVID-19.

#### **Situation within care homes**

4 care homes have on-going incidences related to COVID-19:

- 1 in Blaenau Gwent
- 1 in Caerphilly
- 0 in Monmouthshire
- 1 in Newport
- 1 in Torfaen

Of those positive cases, 9 are staff and 8 are residents. There are 0 incidents within other settings.

The second dose vaccinations in care homes has been completed with some mop-up activities for the remaining few.

### **Update on the mass vaccination programme**

Up to 22 April, 330,191 first doses and 121,931 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.

95.8% over 80s, 96.6% of people aged 75-79 years and 96.3% of people aged 70-74 years have been vaccinated. For those over 60, 93% have been vaccinated as have 90% of 55-59 year olds and 80% between the ages of 50-54. The recent invite for those 40-49 has seen 80% vaccinated.

80% of those over 80 years old have received both their vaccines.

Next week (26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April) Cwmbran, Ebbw Vale, Newbridge and Newport are operating Monday to Friday, and also the Christchurch Centre in Newport on Thursday morning. The hours of operation at each of the centres will vary and all attendances are appointments only.

### **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:

- Access to Primary and Community Care services was discussed. A note has been issued to GP practices setting out the need to provide a better balance between face to face/virtual appointments and the need to get services back to nearer normal levels.
- The position above is also being replicated within Dental Practices, who are getting organised to increase the number of patients being seen. It was confirmed that all Health Board practices are able to offer Aerosol Generating Procedures.
- Given the reducing numbers of COVID-19 patients, Haematology services have now moved from their temporary accommodation at the Royal Gwent Hospital to the permanent location at the Grange University Hospital.
- Minor building work is taking place over the next 4 weeks at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr to enable a safe and secure green pathway to be put in place. This will see at least 2 theatres in operation which will support elective and ambulatory trauma work.

## **Hospital Visiting**

We have previously reported the changes in the visiting policy for partners of mothers accessing maternity services. Next week the Health Board will be considering a set of principles and recommendations from the Nosocomial Transmission Group which are directly link our approach to visiting to the Welsh Government's Alert Status levels. There will then be a need to operationalise the framework to ensure this is clearly understood across the range of hospital services. Further information will be circulated as soon as possible.

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**