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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

BRIEFING FOR MPs

26th March 2021 - COVID-19

Dear Colleague

Please find below a summary of the key issues arising from the briefing that took place on Friday, 26th March 2021.

Situation within communities

Incidence for the Health Board area has decreased slightly, the last 7 days is currently reported as 40.1 per 100,000 population, compared with 42.6 for the previous week. The rate per 100,000 population for each Borough is:

- Blaenau Gwent 70.1 per 100,000
- Newport 51.7 per 100,000
- Caerphilly 44.7 per 100,000
- Torfaen 17.0 per 100,000
- Monmouthshire 12.7 per 100,000

The overall positivity rate for the Health Board area is 3.2% with a target of achieving below 5%.

Situation within our hospitals

There are currently 18 patients in our Intensive Care Unit at the Grange University Hospital. 2 of these patients are COVID-19 positive, 1 patient is suspected of having COVID-19 (currently awaiting test results) and 15 are negative for COVID-19.

There are currently 1,433 patients in our in-patient beds; 32 have tested positive for COVID-19; 13 patients are awaiting results; 20 patients are recovering from COVID-19 and 1,368 patients are being treated for something other than COVID-19.

Situation within care homes

9 care homes in Gwent have on-going incidences related to COVID-19:

- 2 in Blaenau Gwent
- 5 in Caerphilly

- 0 in Monmouthshire
- 1 in Newport
- 1 in Torfaen

Of those tested positive this comprises 48 staff and 30 residents.

The programme of 2nd dose vaccinations in care homes is underway. As at close of play on Wednesday 24th March, the mobile unit team successfully offered dose 2 vaccinations in 90 out of the 97 older adult care homes (that are included in JCVI Priority group 1).

Update on the mass vaccination programme

Up to 24th March, 257,494 first doses and 81,736 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.

95.1% over 80s, 96.0% of people aged 75-79 years and 96.0% of people aged 70-74 years have been vaccinated.

The following centres are operating next week (29th March-1st April) with attendance by appointment only:

- Cwmbran, Newbridge and Newport – Monday to Thursday
- Ebbw Vale – Monday to Wednesday

These will be a combination of mop-up sessions together with first and second doses. Before Easter all those over 50 years old will have had an invitation for their first vaccination, after Easter we will extend the offer to those under 50 years old.

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:

- Audiology -1 Locum starting this week, 2nd locum to commence next week for 12 week period.
- Exploring safest Green pathway for restarting services at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr. This is likely to be a combination of planned trauma, General Surgery and breast.
- Work started to explore additional cataract capacity at Nevill Hall Hospital.
- Additional space and equipment now in Ears Nose and Throat at the Royal Gwent Hospital has increased activity from 96 patients to 224 going forward.
- Green capacity and activity on all sites is increasing.

- Orthopaedic plans continue with 16 patients booked for week of 9th April and 28 thereafter.
- Validation team proposal to review all >52 week waiting outpatients, to include a clinical assessment questionnaire.
- Progress continues delivering 36, 52 week activity. Radiology, Endoscopy and Therapies generally improving week on week with the exception of small/specialist modalities.

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.

Glyn Jones
Dirprwy Brif Weithredwr / Deputy Chief Executive