

Report to: Public Engagement Board

Date: 19/10/2020

Report of: COVID-19 Programme Team

RCG Lead: Eleanor Roaf, Director Public Health Trafford

Report Title: Update paper to Public Engagement Board on COVID-19 Programme in Trafford

Report Summary:

This report outlines the progress made in the recent period in the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper outlines key activities within each work programme including data and intelligence, testing, contact tracing and community engagement.

Recommendations

1. Note the content of this report by way of an update on the COVID-19 situation in Trafford.
2. Consider ways in which members of the Committee can support the COVID-19 team in managing the local situation with particular focus on engagement opportunities to reinforce messaging and good COVID-19 practice.

Contact Officer:

Name: Laura Hobbs, Programme Lead for COVID-19

Tel: 07973 639238

Email: laura.hobbs@trafford.gov.uk

1.0 Headline Data

1.1 Please see full update in the *“Data Surveillance Update Paper to Public Engagement Board 19102020”*

2.0 Testing in Trafford

- 2.1 The availability of increased testing has demonstrated the prevalence of COVID-19 in the Trafford community which have risen significantly since the easing of lockdown restrictions. The known infection rate is higher now than at the time of the last lockdown decision in March 2020.
- 2.2 Over a 14 day period until Monday 05 October, the majority (83.3%) of COVID tests were conducted in our pillar 2 sites, consisting of all out-of-hospital testing sites.
- 2.3 The positivity rate for testing current stands at 13.2%.
- 2.4 The National Testing Programme is continuing to experience exceptionally high demand, although the situation is improving from previous weeks.
- 2.5 Home Testing Kits continue to be available and the closest Local Testing Site is usually provided as an option to individuals seeking a test. There still appear to be an issue with accessing drive-through sites, with the closest site rarely appearing as an option when booking a test.
- 2.6 Testing sites in Trafford Park and Partington have been operational for a number of weeks and are well used. The team are exploring mobilising a third local testing site due to the increase in cases in Trafford.
- 2.7 The Mobile Testing Site will be in place during October at Trafford House but has been redeployed for a number of dates to other areas in GM where rates are higher.
- 2.8 Redeployment of testing sites to other areas could act to skew infection rate data if fewer cases are being identified due to reduced testing capacity.
- 2.9 The recruitment of a business as usual swabbing team is ongoing. As well as outbreaks, work is ongoing to understand how the swabbing team can support in the testing of priority groups.
- 2.10 Supported Living & Extra Care Social Care Team are part of a GM testing pilot. Many settings have begun to order kits as part of this.

3.0 Contact tracing

- 3.1 Local contact tracing was initiated on the 9th September 2020.
- 3.2 System issues are currently impacting the robustness of activity but are rapidly being addressed where possible:
 - There are systemic problems with the timely release of National data to localities hampering local contact tracing efforts, resulting in the possible spread of the infection as contacts cannot be traced within the incubation period.

- There are quality issues with the data being released, requiring dedicated capacity for data mining and prioritisation logic to be applied before it can be released to the contact tracing team
 - The volume of activity (caseloads) is increasing and processes for managing activity is being rapidly developed to cope with the pace and scope of work
- 3.3 Resource capacity for contact tracing is being increased (the Access Trafford team went live to support the core team on 07/10/2020)
- 3.4 There are opportunities for streamlining systems and processes to help build capacity and the team are working hard to identify efficiencies and intelligent solutions with colleagues.
- 3.5 A systemic model able to withstand the requirement for operational flexibility due to a second wave or national lockdown are actively being developed.
- 3.6 The Single Point of Contact team continue to support schools, local businesses and partner organisations to manage positive cases and outbreaks.

4.0 Community Engagement

- 4.1 The weekly Covid-19 Co-ordination Engagement Group and COVID-19 Enforcement group are now fully mobilised and pro-actively supporting the work of the Board to support the COVID-19 engagement response across the locality.
- 4.2 Key updates from these groups:
- Core communication on new national Tier system and what this means in specific work areas being actively communicated to system partners and key stakeholders so messaging is clear.
 - Team are ensuring local Public Space Protection Orders are in place across Trafford to prevent clustering post 10pm at pub/restaurant closure times.
 - Proactive work around Halloween/bonfire night to identify activity to manage these.
 - Meeting with mosque leaders and Arabic school teachers in the north and work underway to translate materials into local community languages for dissemination.
 - Ongoing work with schools and head teachers to support where there are positive cases and outbreaks to ensure we take appropriate action to control spread and communicate key messages.
 - Officers from Licensing, GMP, Environmental Health and elected members have visited town centres to check current legislation is being adhered to and businesses, licensed premises, and residents understand what is required of them.
 - Officers continue to engaging with the business owners and managers where outbreaks occur to ensure business owners are clear on COVID secure workplace practice.

- Further operations will be held in town centres to include evenings and weekend to monitor compliance with the regulations.
- Face covering compliance operations on public transport to ensure people are aware of the rules.
- Reports of gatherings within residential premises have been attended by GMP and the Community Safety Team. A proportionate approach is taken but fixed penalties can and have been issued.
- A joined-up approach between the council, GMP and the UK Border Control for reports of individuals or families in breach of the quarantine rules returning from certain countries is being progressed.
- Officers of the council and GMP are working closely with event organisers to ensure regulations are adhered to and that any events can be delivered as safely as possible.
- Localised networks further developed to disseminate info to faith leaders, 'activists' and community organisations. Faith Leaders disseminate weekly stakeholder briefing to congregations.
- Stakeholder briefings are being circulated weekly by Trafford Business, Community Safety and Partnerships and Communities.
- Free posters are being developed by the cabinet office in different languages for distribution around high prevalence areas or areas with high spread rates within Trafford.
- Ongoing communications work for staff and partners to reinforce messaging around restriction measures, local and national rules and good COVID-19 practice to ensure clarity of messaging.

Recommendations

1. Note the content of this report by way of an update on the COVID-19 situation in Trafford.
2. Consider ways in which members of the Committee can support the COVID-19 team in managing the local situation including engagement opportunities to reinforce messaging and good COVID-19 practice.