



Weekly Covid-19 Update for Elected Members

Date of Issue: 19 November 2021

Number of new Test and Trace cases received 12 – 18 November: 371

Work focus

- The Covid response team is under pressure for several reasons:
 - Staffing shortage (due to Mat Thompson leaving the team, and team members being on annual leave). We are currently recruiting new team members, and have also put a request in for bank staff to assist with weekend visits to prevent burn out of the team)
 - Continued high incidence rates (South Ribble and Chorley are both in the top 4 districts in Lancashire)
 - Increasing number of workplace outbreaks requiring investigation (this is perhaps to be expected with the high infection rates we are currently experiencing)
- The current situation has delayed the implementation of handwashing lesson programme in schools, but letters will be going out in the next week to invite schools to express an interest.
- We have requested support from the communications team to promote messages to businesses regarding risk assessment and ventilation, and to the public to promote safe behavior, including wearing face coverings in enclosed areas, and vaccination (including boosters for those who are eligible). The business support team will also circulate advice to businesses.
- We have contributed to a winter support booklet that will be distributed by the Covid response team to people who are isolating.

Changes to Coronavirus Regulations and Guidance

- Ventilation and air conditioning guidance and materials for councils and businesses
The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has updated guidance to help councils and businesses identify poor ventilation in work areas and take practical steps to improve it. HSE has also made available a series of new ventilation guidance videos setting out the key advice and examples of how businesses have improved ventilation to reduce COVID-19 transmission. With winter approaching, HSE has also revised the guidance on balancing ventilation and keeping warm.
HSE have also created a presentation that councils can use when engaging with businesses about better ventilation.

Guidance:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/regulating-health-and-safety/spot-inspections.htm>
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/roadmap-further-guidance.htm>
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/risk-assessment.htm>
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/how-you-can-improve-ventilation.htm>

Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkK_LZeUGXM&list=PLUgskOJdB41CvP0CffILi7unWe0QGYFm8&index=2
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUgskOJdB41CvP0CffILi7unWe0QGYFm8>

Presentation:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Fg9A0wcYibqvJ6imDI8Z2aJMvBObdgPp/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106238755082526511001&rtpof=true&sd=true>

- Working safely during COVID-19

The government has recently updated the guidance on reducing the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the workplace to include additional information on ventilation in offices, restaurants, shops, hotels and at events or attractions.

The guidance provides information on how different workplaces can maintain an adequate supply of fresh air. In poorly ventilated spaces, residual virus can remain in the air after an infected person has left and increase the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

The guidance also includes information on managing risk, self-isolation, reducing contact for workers and equality in these workplaces.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/updates>

- COVID-19: guidance for arranging or attending a funeral or commemorative event

The government has published a new easy-read version of the guidance for local partners on managing a funeral during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The advice is designed to assist people who are involved in arranging or attending a funeral or commemorative event following a death from any cause during the COVID-19 outbreak. It is also for professionals who may be involved in arranging or managing a funeral or commemorative event.

The guidance has been developed to ensure that:

- people are treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect when someone dies
- funerals and commemorative events can continue to take place while minimising the risk of infection

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Other Relevant Coronavirus Updates

- Campaign and toolkit to demonstrate the importance of ventilation

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched a campaign across digital channels, radio stations and newspapers, demonstrating the importance of simple ventilation techniques to reduce the risks of catching COVID-19 this winter.

Scientists from the Universities of Cambridge and Leeds, in collaboration with the government, released an explainer film demonstrating the positive impact of reducing

COVID-19 levels indoors by opening a window for just ten minutes every hour when socialising with others. The key message will be to 'Stop COVID-19 hanging around'. The government has produced a toolkit to support communications on the importance of ventilation, safer behaviours and vaccines which includes posters and social media graphics.

Earlier this week, the government updated the guidance on reducing the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the workplace to include additional information on ventilation in offices, restaurants, shops, hotels and at events or attractions. The guidance provides information on how different workplaces can maintain an adequate supply of fresh air.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-to-stop-covid-19-hanging-around>

Toolkit:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zvuQ260chS-nWTBaWZdl1ZdXb4Z8y4dq/view?usp=sharing>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/updates>

- Prime Minister's statement on COVID-19

On 15 November the Prime Minister gave an update on the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

He stated that the government has accepted the advice from the independent experts at the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to extend the additional offer of a COVID-19 booster vaccine to people aged 40 and over and to offer a second dose of a vaccine to all young people aged 16 to 17 from 12 weeks after their first dose.

He reminded people to take up the offer if they are offered a booster COVID-19 vaccine and that the National Vaccination Booking Service will be updated to allow those eligible for a booster vaccine – people over 40 and those most at risk of COVID-19 – to pre-book their jab five months after their second dose.

He also highlighted the importance of ventilation, wearing masks in crowded indoor spaces and hand washing and confirmed that around 12.6 million people across the UK have had a COVID-19 booster vaccine, including around three-quarters of all people over 70 and 80 per cent of eligible older people in care homes in England.

Statement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-opening-statement-at-covid-19-press-conference-15-november-2021>

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-terrorism-threat-level-raised-to-severe>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-accepts-jcvi-advice-on-covid-19-vaccination-programme>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-advice-on-covid-19-booster-vaccines-for-those-aged-40-to-49-and-second-doses-for-16-to-17-year-olds>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-welcomes-todays-announcement-by-the-jcvi>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-hits-12-million-top-ups-in-record-breaking-week>

Vaccination booking system:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-1st-or-2nd-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>
- COVID-19 booster vaccine significantly increases protection

The UK Health Security Agency has published results showing those aged 50 and above have significantly increased protection against symptomatic COVID-19 from the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine booster dose.

The findings show that two weeks after receiving a COVID-19 booster vaccine, protection against symptomatic infection in adults aged 50 years and over was 93.1% in those with AstraZeneca as their primary course and 94.0% for Pfizer-BioNTech.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosters-give-over-90-protection-against-symptomatic-covid-19-in-adults-over-50>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/monitoring-reports-of-the-effectiveness-of-covid-19-vaccination>

- UKHSA updates clinical guidance on vaccinations for 12 to 17-year-olds
The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) updated the clinical guidance to recommend that young people aged 12 to 17 who are not in a high-risk group should wait 12 weeks after a positive test showing COVID-19 infection before getting their first (or second if aged 16 to 17) vaccine dose. This is following a review of evidence by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on second doses for young people aged 16 to 17 issued earlier this week.
This increase from four weeks is based on the emerging evidence from the UK and other countries, which suggests that leaving a longer interval between infection and vaccination may further reduce the already small risk of myocarditis in younger age groups. Those aged 18 and above should still take up their vaccine offer if they are four weeks after a positive test. This is because they are at higher risk of the complications of COVID-19 infection.
This change does not affect those aged 12 to 17 in clinical at-risk groups. These individuals should still take up their vaccine offer if they are four weeks after a positive test and continue to receive their second dose eight weeks after the first. This is because their individual risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 is higher and so outweighs any benefit of delaying to 12 weeks.
Guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-updates-clinical-guidance-on-vaccinations-for-12-to-17-year-olds>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-in-children-and-young-people-aged-16-to-17-years-jcvi-statement-november-2021/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-jcvi-advice-on-covid-19-vaccination-in-people-aged-16-to-17-years-15-november-2021>

DATA UPDATE

Working closely with the Lancashire Resilience Forum and Public Health England (PHE), we are able to access the very latest data in infection rates and forecasts in order to guide our prevention activity and ensure we are prepared for any changes in local or national lockdown measures and outbreaks.

This data is the property of PHE and currently we do not have permission to share it, only Senior Environmental Health Officers and Chief Officers are permitted access.

However, we have requested permission of PHE to share it both with our elected members and in our communications to encourage local compliance and keep residents informed.

LATEST FIGURES FOR CHORLEY

The Government has consolidated publication of Covid-19 statistics to make it easier to find the latest data. The latest figure published at 4:00pm on 18 November for cumulative confirmed Covid-19 cases for Chorley is **19393** (cumulative rate per 100 000 is **16314.5**). For comparison, South Ribble has seen 18415 cases (cumulative rate per 100 000 is 16577.2). Total cases and rates in other neighbouring areas are: Blackburn with Darwen 31758 (rate 21167.8); Preston 26693 (rate 18517.9); West Lancashire 18289 (rate 15973.5).

Fig. 1 is an extract from the latest available PHE daily situational report for the North West on Resilience Direct dated 18 November 2021 (covering the period 7 - 13 November*). The table shows that in Chorley in those 7 days there have been **526** cases (compared to 475 in the preceding 7 days). The weekly rate per 100 000 in the report is given as **442.5** (cf 399.6 the previous week). Data for South Ribble are 448 cases and the weekly rate per 100 000 is 403.3 (the previous week saw 509 cases and a rate of 458.2 per 100 000).

** NB, for comparison between districts, the most recent 4 days are excluded from the calculations due to reporting delays*

The above data are publicly available and may be shared outside the organisation.

Fig. 2 is an extract from the same report, and shows the change in weekly case rate across the North West from 4 November. The infection rate in Chorley is increasing once again, although there is a lot of fluctuation and the general trend is stabilising.

Upper Tier Local Authority	Lower Tier Local Authority	Weekly no. of newly confirmed cases	Weekly case rate per 100,000, All ages ⁴	7-day change in case rate, All ages ⁶	Weekly no. of newly confirmed cases 60+ yrs	Weekly case rate per 100,000 60+ yrs ⁵	7-day change in case rate 60+ yrs ⁶	Weekly community outbreaks ⁸	
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen	483	321.9	+11%	57	191.6	-16%	1	
	Blackpool	501	362.0	+9%	68	182.0	-1%	3	
Lancashire	Burnley	274	306.7	+9%	39	176.6	+5%	1	
	Chorley	526	442.5	+11%	71	229.1	-32%	2	
	Fylde	319	392.8	+14%	39	135.8	-32%	1	
	Hyndburn	283	348.8	+28%	32	163.0	+23%	0	
	Lancaster	517	349.0	+29%	60	157.3	+25%	2	
	Pendle	290	314.7	+13%	50	218.7	-11%	0	
	Preston	470	326.1	-9%	65	227.3	0%	2	
	Ribble Valley	326	525.6	+17%	36	188.1	-12%	0	
	Rossendale	331	463.4	+29%	61	341.4	+24%	2	
	South Ribble	448	403.3	-12%	60	193.9	-41%	2	
	West Lancashire	460	401.8	+25%	66	200.6	+16%	1	
	Wyre	443	391.8	-1%	70	176.5	-17%	0	
	North West		26,358	357.8	+5%	3,154	173.7	-15%	30
	England		217,673	384.9	+11%	24,653	180.5	-9%	328

⁴Weekly case rate: Maroon >250 cases per 100,000, Dark red 151 to 250 cases per 100,000, Red 51 to 150 cases per 100,000, Amber 25 to 50 per 100,000 per week, Green <25 per 100,000 per week

⁵60+ yrs weekly case rate: Maroon >150 cases per 100,000, Dark red 101 to 150 cases per 100,000, Red 51 to 100 cases per 100,000, Amber 25 to 50 per 100,000 per week, Green <25 per 100,000 per week

⁶Percentage change in weekly case rate in comparison to same period 7-days previous: Maroon >100% increase in cases, Red 51 to 100% increase

⁸Community outbreaks include all outbreaks and clusters reported to UKHSA excluding those from secondary care and care home settings. These include outbreaks reported from childcare, university, prison, primary health care, workplace, school and other community settings. Source: HPZone

Fig.1 Table of testing rate, positivity, case rate, and exceedance rating for Lower Tier Local Authorities in North West in the 7-day period 7 - 13 November 2021 (Table edited to show only the Lancashire-14 districts)

Lancashire County Council publishes a weekly insight into Covid-19 intelligence. This is publicly available at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/covidweekly/>

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