

Tewkesbury Borough Council

Bulletin 78 – 19 February 2021

Situation report

Gloucestershire: Cases have decreased by 107 in the last week – there are now 490 cases in the county. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 76.9 and a total of 920 people have lost their lives.

Tewkesbury Borough: There are now 58 cases in the borough. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 61.0 – this is the lowest in the county. A total of 133 people have lost their lives.

Vaccinations: Take up across Gloucestershire is currently as follows:

Residents aged 80+: 99.7%

Residents aged 75-79: 100%

Residents aged 70-74: 89.3%

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents: 87.6%

Vaccination rates in Gloucestershire are the highest in the country. Residents in cohorts 5 and 6 are currently receiving vaccinations.

General

The council's operational manager cohort will be considering the look and feel of the council offices for when staff return to the site. This will be discussed at a forthcoming meeting and will take into account customers visiting the site.

Service delivery

Property and asset management: The mobile Covid-19 testing site at the Lower Lode Depot is operational on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday this week. Public Health will adjust the operation of the site to meet local demand, but it is likely that it will remain open for two or three days per week for the foreseeable future.

Communications: The Gloucestershire County Council communications team will shortly be promoting on social media a map featuring all testing centre locations across Gloucestershire. We will support and share these posts when they are made available.

Human resources: More information is becoming available about long Covid. Studies show it is most likely to affect the working population, impacting those who have had Covid but may not have suffered from severe symptoms.

The most common symptoms of long Covid are brain fog, mood changes, insomnia and fatigue. Without management, symptoms tend to get worse. We will work to ensure managers and staff are aware of what to watch out for so we can manage cases appropriately should they occur within the council workforce.

Addressing vaccine misinformation: A news post was published on the intranet to counter vaccine misinformation and encourage officers to take up the offer of a vaccination when invited to do so. This included video clips from Public Health England addressing common concerns about the Covid-19 vaccine.

Customer services: Garden waste renewals for 2021/22 have commenced. Over 5,500 renewal reminders have already been sent. To date, just over 3,000 stickers have been purchased, generating income of nearly £150,000. A further 10,000 renewal reminders are scheduled to be sent out this evening. Based on last year's figures, it is anticipated that 80% of the renewals will be done online. An additional £45,000 has been added to the income target.

Community support

Clinically extremely vulnerable: New criteria have been announced for those designated as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). It is expected that between 500 and 700 new people in Tewkesbury Borough (5000 new people across Gloucestershire) will be added to this list.

Gloucestershire County Council will write to all new CEVs explaining the support that is available to them.

Shielding will continue until 31 March.

Community Help Hub: The number of people requesting assistance through the Community Help Hub remains low compared to the first lockdown.

Business support

400 additional council tax hardship fund awards - each of up to £75 - have been paid to working age residents receiving council tax reduction. A [press release](#) highlighting these additional awards was issued this week.

National Lockdown Grants: 498 businesses have received grants totalling £3,462,385. These businesses have also all received tier-restrictions grants. We are still awaiting government guidance relating to payments following the six-week lockdown which ended on Monday 15 February. When we have the details, we will be able to pay businesses any further national lockdown grants automatically.

Additional Restrictions Grants: 76 applications have been received, 17 businesses have been paid at a total of £56,000.

Self-isolation payments: 243 applications received, 127 paid at a total of £63,500. Only nine applications were received this week as infection rates in the borough decrease.