

COVID Local Area Outbreak update

Overview and Scrutiny Board
03 September 2020

Local outbreak

17 positive cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in an extended family cluster and a local outbreak was confirmed by the Director of Public Health on 06/08/2020.

The Local Outbreak Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) and Local Outbreak Control Board (LOCB) were stood up accordingly and met, as per the agreed protocol on the morning of 07/08/2020.

A range of actions were undertaken to respond to this cluster outbreak, with 50 total positive cases recorded, over the period 06/08/2020 to 20/08/2020.

Local outbreak response (1 of 2)

Cases were monitored and reported to the SCG / LOCB daily and the following key pieces of information were uncovered and appropriate actions undertaken:

- Family tree of contacts reviewed for contact tracing purposes
- Member of one family identified as a taxi driver and so appropriate measures were undertaken to 1) ensure vehicle was no longer in use and 2) understand level of use / occupancy of taxi, prior to handing vehicle back to assist with contact tracing
- Member of another extended family cluster works at a town centre pizza shop and similar measures were undertaken by the Health Protection Team to ensure 1) staff member in question had taken COVID test and was confirmed as negative and 2) that appropriate deep-cleaning was undertaken on the premises, prior to allowing customers to return

Local outbreak response (2 of 2)

Continued...

- Mobile Testing Unit was mobilised on 08/08/2020 and was based in 2 localities in town, until 21/08/2020 (Centuria Car Park and latterly the Newport Grange Community Hub car park)
- Health Protection Teams began work with food and beverage establishments to ensure more thorough / robust contact tracing going forward
- An outbreak communications plan was developed to update members of the public on local outbreak and to reinforce messaging on social gatherings, wearing of face masks, washing hands, etc.

Recent spike in COVID cases

A spike in local COVID cases was confirmed on 23/08/2020 and as at 03/09/2020 the number of confirmed positive cases in this spike totals 63. What we know so far is (with the exception of the care home cases and NHS staff) all cases, fall mainly within the following groups:

- Individuals returning from international travel and their household contacts;
- Household contacts from previous extended family cluster outbreak who have now seroconverted;
- A customer and staff members of the Apple Tree Pub in Marton, a small group of Stockton Borough Council workplace staff and their household contacts (all of which are Middlesbrough residents);
- A small community cluster of young people; and
- Mini-breakouts in multiple workplaces including bars, a restaurant and a pharmacy.

Recent spike in COVID cases (1 of 2)

The following key actions have been undertaken:

- The Health Protection Team is in the process of following up on contact tracing for those returning from international travel, those affected by Stockton Borough Council outbreak and those staff and customers of the Apple Tree Pub testing positive for COVID, the cluster of young people and those additional bars and restaurants with small number of positive cases, instructing all individuals to self-isolate at home
- The Apple Tree Pub itself has been closed until 08/09/2020 for deep-cleaning, which will be followed by a risk assessment
- Of those returning from international travel, were taxi drivers who were instructed to self-isolate but did not; 2 of which have subsequently had licenses suspended by the Health Protection Team

Recent spike in COVID cases (2 of 2)

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- Further communications were issued over the August bank holiday weekend to reinforce messaging on social gatherings, wearing of face masks, washing hands, etc.
- Outbreak control team, Strategic Coordination Group and Local Outbreak Control Board all stood up week commencing 01/09/2020
- Mobile testing unit arranged for weekend (05/09 - 06/09) to make testing more accessible to the community
- Risk mitigating communications agreed via Local Outbreak Control Board and issued accordingly through Council's social media routes

Decisions taken (1 of 2)

Date	Decision-making group	Event
23/07/2020	Gold Command	80% payments to casual staff, to cease with immediate effect, with arrangements in place for those working term time / paid in arrears and an offer of alternative work opportunities.
23/07/2020	Gold Command	Approach to allocation of £240k Emergency Food grant approved, as 'No Middlesbrough Resident Should Go Hungry' which includes both short-term demand support and longer-term community partnership support.
23/07/2020	Gold Command	Backdated staff mileage claims owing to a temporary change in working location (following enforced working from home during lockdown) was discussed and approved, on the premise that more effective journey planning will be applied.
23/07/2020	Gold Command	It was confirmed that a process and appropriate risk assessments and related arrangements for face to face social work meetings is in place to allow resumption from 03/08/2020.
24/07/2020	Single Member Executive	Neptune and Rainbow Centre to reopen from 01/09/2020, with Middlesbrough Sports Village able to reopen from 25/07/2020.

Decisions taken (2 of 2)

Date	Decision-making group	Event
30/07/2020	Gold Command	It was confirmed that where decisions are approved 'in principle' at Gold Command, usual decision making routes should be adhered to, and followed up by appropriate Executive / Council decision making routes.
06/08/2020	Director of Public Health	Local COVID-19 outbreak confirmed by Director of Public Health and an emergency stand-up of Local Outbreak Strategic Coordination Group and Local Outbreak Control Board undertaken.
13/08/2020	Gold Command	Town Centre car parking charges to be reinstated from 24/08, with the exception of 2hrs free parking in Captain Cook for the remainder of August to support visitors to Middlesbrough Town Centre taking advantage of the Government's Eat Out to Help Out initiative.
20/08/2020	Director of Public Health	As no new COVID cases were recorded since 18/08 (unconnected to original family cluster), daily updates to Chairs of SCG and LOCB will suffice, unless there is a significant increase in cases / cause for concern, at which point the SCG and LOCB will be stood-up.
27/08/2020	Gold Command	It was agreed that the Neptune and Rainbow Centre libraries will reopen for 2 days a week, for public click and collect services, with resumption of full operational hours to be considered in longer term Recovery plans.
01/09/2020	Chief Executive	Following a spike in local COVID cases monitored from 23/08/2020, it was agreed to stand-up the Local Outbreak Strategic Coordination Group and Control Boards.