

Item no.	
----------	--

Salford Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of report	Report of the Salford Health Protection Board
Date	2 November 2020
Contact Officer	Dr Muna Abdel Aziz and Gillian McLauchlan

1. Executive Summary

<p>Why is this report being brought to the Board? - Relevance of this report to the priorities of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment or integrated working</p>	<p>The Health Protection Board reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board during the COVID pandemic. The HP Board is a subgroup specifically considering the response to COVID-19 outbreaks in Salford</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing Board’s duties or responsibilities in this area</p>	<p>There are other subgroups of the HWB Board like the Salford Time to Act group who are considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health inequalities.</p>
<p>Key questions for the Health and Wellbeing Board to address - what action is needed from the Board and its members?</p>	<p>The HWB Board are asked to note the assurances and any risks from the HP Board regarding the measures being taken to respond to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in Salford.</p> <p>For information, the evidence presented to SAGE last month for Contain measures. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/npis-table-17-september-2020</p>
<p>What requirement is there for internal or external communication around this issue?</p>	<p>The HPB are now producing weekly messages to the public and stakeholder organisations in Salford. https://www.salford.gov.uk/people-communities-and-local-information/coronavirus/coronavirus-level-in-salford/ This follows the daily and weekly updates of the data showing where the virus is currently circulating.</p> <p>Outreach community engagement is led and undertaken by volunteers alongside staff in the CCG and council.</p>

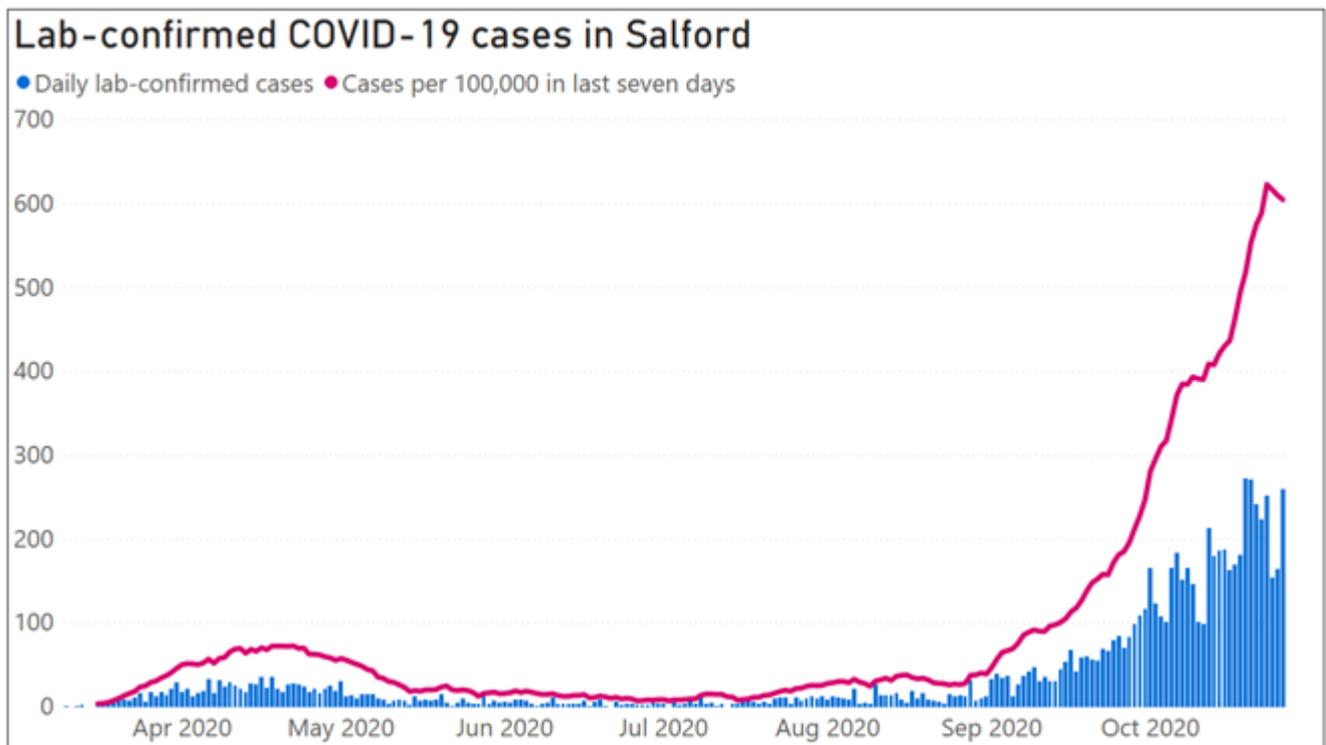
2. Introduction

The Health Protection Board was set up in July 2020 in responding to COVID-19. The group have been meeting weekly every Thursday to consider the situation in Greater Manchester and the UK, and specifically the situation in Salford in terms of data, soft intelligence and the measures in place. An action plan was produced in August as the cases continued to rise.

So far, there have been a total of 8,327 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Salford. In the 7 days ending 26 October, there were 1,568 new cases of COVID-19 in Salford, an increase from previous week (1,342 cases).

The health protection board have focused in September and October on the targeting of activities to the case profiles for the outbreaks in care homes, workplaces, schools, different communities and age groups.

Testing levels have increased throughout the summer and are much higher now than they were during the early months of the pandemic. At the start of September there were around 350 tests conducted each day with one in every thirty producing a positive result. Now we are seeing approximately 1,300 tests per day with around one in every six tests producing a positive result. This proportion testing positive (the positivity rate) means we are not testing enough people; and that we are missing a large number of people with the virus who have not been tested.



3. Recommendations for action

Salford is on the top national watchlist areas along with other areas in Greater Manchester. The virus continues to circulate and cluster in households in the city. Transmission is widespread in the community in all wards. The largest ethnicity category is 'White British' over 80% of cases currently. Cases in age group 80 and over are the fastest growing day by day, and this has shifted from the working age groups in previous weeks. This is consistent with the increase in severe consequences requiring intensive case and sadly deaths.

- People are advised to self-isolate as soon as they feel unwell with symptoms that may be coronavirus, and if they test positive they should let their contacts know straight away without waiting for public health or the national test and trace system to get in touch.
- Due to the high levels of community transmission, schools and workplaces are advised to review the individual risk assessments for vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable staff and customers, service users or young people.
- As we head into winter, we will be living with COVID-19 which is layered on top of all our usual preparation for winter pressures on the NHS and the care sector, with a much higher risk of deaths and outbreaks.
- The infection control precautions for COVID-19 protect against the other viruses, and we can do more this winter to scale up the flu vaccinations as these plans will also help when a potential COVID vaccine is ready.

Outbreaks

- There are new outbreaks daily in workplaces and schools, and occasionally in care homes. All care homes have very strict measures in place which have not been relaxed since the first wave. We are finding that where a workplace or setting experiences their first case or an outbreak, they quickly shore up their COVID security where a gap has been exposed e.g. around staff lunch or breaks, use of shared areas, use of PPE and face coverings, walking to the bus together and/or car share.
- In the last week, we have large numbers of staff and students self-isolating across many of our schools (currently 7% children are isolating). As with other areas in the country, the numbers of cases among university students are starting to reduce; and there are robust arrangements for on campus COVID security.

Community engagement

The key message now is “**Remember your Hands, Face, Space, and Stay at home if you think you may have the virus**”.

In order to turn things around, everybody must do all they can right now and in the next four weeks of national lockdown. You can find more information in the links highlighted in blue below.

- Do you remember to wash your **hands** after touching items that other people have touched (like groceries, trolleys, door handles, stairs and lift buttons)? [Washing your hands](#) or using sanitiser is the most basic way to protect yourself and others.
- Do you always have a **face** covering ready to wear in public places? You can wear [a badge or exemption card](#) or even a home-made sign if you cannot wear a face covering for health or other reasons.
- Do you avoid places when they are most likely to be crowded and make **space**, keeping a safe distance from people you do not live with?
[Help businesses stay open](#) by following their rules to keep everyone safe. Don't be offended if you are reminded about your face covering or respecting other people's space.
- Do you know where to get a test if you become unwell with symptoms that could be coronavirus?
You must stay at home and [get tested](#) if you think you may have the virus. You must get a test if you become unwell after contact with a positive case.

The faster we can bring down the rate of infection, the sooner restrictions can be eased, and we can protect the important things in life; our jobs, education and seeing our loved ones.

Every small change we make can have a huge impact.

4. Contextual information

CONTACT OFFICERS:

The Health Protection Board is chaired by Director of Public Health or Deputy Director.

THIS REPORT CONTENT HAS ALSO BEEN CONSIDERED BY:

Health and Wellbeing Board and Salford City Council Cabinet.
