

Appendix 5 – Health Protection Forum Highlight Report

1.1 Context

Due to the covid outbreak the Health Protection Forum (HPF) had been meeting every 2 weeks since the 30th June 2020. At the meeting on the 19th January the Forum decided to move to monthly meetings. Approximately 80% of each meeting is devoted to discussing the current coronavirus situation and response, with the remainder covering other health protection concerns.

1.2 Current Circumstance

The standing agenda items remain the same as in the last update report and cover the following issues:

The HPF coronavirus discussions include:

1. Current situation regarding case rates, test positivity rates, geographical spread
 - a. This is the report of the latest weekly slides produced by the Public Health Division that is also shared in various corporate and strategic meetings
2. Testing – infrastructure, logistics and activity
3. Mobile testing logistics
4. Outbreak summaries and learning
5. Testing results – trends, patterns, rates of change
6. Development of plans in response to 1-5 above
7. Infection prevention and control plans and issues
8. Vaccination plans and updates
9. Review of activity from the working groups
 - a. Residential and clinical settings (including care homes, hospitals, primary care, children's' residential settings)
 - b. Education settings
 - c. Other settings (including homeless settings, workplaces etc)

Non-coronavirus discussions include:

1. Challenging health protection cases
 - a. TB and blood-borne viruses
 - b. Any other communicable disease or environmental hazard situations

2. Vaccination and screening programme plans and delivery (including flu, MMR and other childhood vaccinations)

- a. CCGs/STPs have produced detailed local delivery plans with all local providers (incl. GPs); plans address limitations due to coronavirus, higher uptake targets, additional target cohorts and expected higher demand for vaccination of particular vaccines.

1.3 Next Steps and Delivery

- The NHS seasonal flu programme that is commissioned by NHSE&I and delivered by GPs, pharmacies, hospitals and vaccination service providers is now nearing the end of the season and discussions will move to lessons learned and planning for the 2021/22 season. Planning is led by BSol STP (and includes the West Birmingham area) and uptake activity will be reported into the HPF
- Delivery of the SARS-CoV2 (known as covid) vaccination programme is ongoing and will report into the HPF. This is being led by the NHS.
- The Forum will also be seeking assurance on plans for catch-up child vaccination programmes and national screening programmes that have been impacted by the pandemic.
- Monitoring of covid case/contact data, outbreaks, intelligence will continue and be used to inform the response.