

## **Covid-19 Recovery: WCBC Fortnightly Briefing Note, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Despite this being the 5<sup>th</sup> Members Covid Recovery Briefing Note, the level of spread of the Delta Variant means it is important that we continue to share with you that information, and its impact in our communities and our schools

This briefing includes

- Some highlights of the Council's recovery route map from the Covid-19 pandemic
- To provide an update with regards to current local spread of the delta variant
- To provide an update with regards to the current position in schools in Wrexham

### **Council's Recovery Route Map**

The Council is now working developing a Covid routemap proposed to be used as a working document and officers welcome further comment regarding steps to be taken during this period.

The Routemap proposes 3 phases of recovery specifically for our internal business. Those being:-

- ***Current Position***

Employees whose roles do not lend themselves to working from home attend site or the office to deliver services.

Face to Face delivery of services is limited to specific areas only with registrars, home care, social care assessment, schools, training, housing repairs, housing options, school catering, street scene, enforcement, housing emergency repairs amongst those delivering support in person.

All specific council business meetings continue to occur remotely are present

- ***Early Transition from Level 1 to 0***

Return of workforce to offices on 1/3 ratios daily for those previously required to work from home. A balance of at home, on site or the workplace attendance for staff.

Continued progress to gradual reopening of services that require face to face contact.

Main council business to remain digitally. Selected meetings to occur in person with appropriate risk assessments in place

Council meetings best maintained digitally to a point where all feel safe to attend, continue. Work to explore potential for hybrid meetings.

- ***Ongoing Normal working***

Full Transition to Modern Ways of Working. Involving a mix of planned workplace, site and home working

Ongoing care of workforce in post pandemic period

Implement long term meeting structure on new normal.

## DATA ON THE VIRUS

**TABLE 1: Covid-19 in the County Borough as a whole compared to other Councils in North Wales**

### TESTS

	1st Wave - Spring/Summer 2020		2nd Wave - Autumn/Winter 2020/21		3rd Wave - Summer 2021		Last 4 Weeks' Scores			
	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	07/06 - 13/06	14/05 - 20/06	21/06 - 27/06	28/06 - 04/07
Anglesey	1 (08 March)	805 (21 June)	360 (16 Aug 20)	3501 (28 Mar 21)	474 (16 May)	1256 (04 July)	729	873	1074	1256
Conwy	4 (08 March)	1519 (7 June)	588 (21 June 20)	2266 (10 Jan 21)	1044 (11 Apr)	2304 (04 July)	2024	2614	2389	<b>2304</b>
Denbighshire	2 (08 March)	1188 (7 June)	423 (28 June 20)	2290 (10 Jan 21)	836 (23 May)	2024 (27 June)	1357	1978	2024	1949
Flintshire	4 (08 March)	1332 (7 June)	651 (21 June 20)	4146 (10 Jan 21)	1067 (04 Apr)	3813 (04 July)	1449	2395	2911	3813
Gwynedd	5 (08 March)	1101 (7 June)	626 (28 June 20)	1985 (17 Jan 21)	891 (23 May)	2375 (27 June)	1312	1721	<b>2375</b>	2248
Wrexham	4 (08 March)	2069 (2 Aug)	1087 (16 Aug 20)	4004 (10 Jan 21)	1142 (06 Jun)	3236 (04 July)	1367	1803	2473	3236

### TESTS: POSITIVITY RATE

	1st Wave - Spring/Summer 2020		2nd Wave - Autumn/Winter 2020/21		3rd Wave - Summer 2021		Last 4 Weeks' Scores			
	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	07/06 - 13/06	14/05 - 20/06	21/06 - 27/06	28/06 - 04/07
Anglesey	0 (29 March)	34.8 (19 Apr)	0.2 (30 Aug 20)	14.7 (03 Jan 21)	0.2 (30 May)	7.7 (04 July)	2.3	2.1	5.7	7.7
Conwy	0 (22 March)	38.8 (19 Apr)	0.2 (23 Aug 20)	11.2 (10 Jan 21)	0.3 (09 May)	8.4 (04 July)	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	5.0	8.4
Denbighshire	0 (15 March)	53.1 (12 Apr)	0.4 (30 Aug 20)	18.6 (03 Jan 21)	0.0 (02 May)	8.1 (04 July)	<b>5.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Flintshire	0 (08 March)	49.6 (12 Apr)	0.4 (09 Aug 20)	28.5 (03 Jan 21)	0.6 (09 May)	9.8 (04 July)	<b>4.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	8.7	9.8
Gwynedd	0 (15 March)	50.9 (19 Apr)	0.3 (02 Aug 20)	12.7 (17 Jan 21)	0.3 (23 May)	7.0 (04 July)	1.6	2.8	5.3	7
Wrexham	0 (08 March)	39.8 (19 Apr)	0.7 (30 Aug 20)	32.5 (03 Jan 21)	1.1 (06 Jun)	13.1 (04 July)	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>8.1</b>	13.1

Old WG Trigger Points: **>2.5%** **>5%**

### NEW CASES

	1st Wave - Spring/Summer 2020		2nd Wave - Autumn/Winter 2020/21		3rd Wave - Summer 2021		Last 4 Weeks' Scores			
	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	07/06 - 13/06	14/05 - 20/06	21/06 - 27/06	28/06 - 04/07
Anglesey	0 (29 March)	106 (21 June)	1 (30 Aug 20)	130 (03 Jan 21)	1 (30 May)	97 (04 July)	17	18	61	97
Conwy	0 (22 March)	116 (17 May)	3 (23 Aug 20)	254 (10 Jan 21)	4 (09 May)	193 (04 July)	<b>97</b>	<b>95</b>	120	<b>193</b>
Denbighshire	0 (15 March)	108 (24 May)	4 (30 Aug 20)	411 (10 Jan 21)	0 (02 May)	157 (04 July)	<b>74</b>	<b>69</b>	140	<b>157</b>
Flintshire	0 (08 March)	88 (10 May)	5 (09 Aug 20)	1059 (03 Jan 21)	7 (09 May)	375 (04 July)	<b>60</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>375</b>
Gwynedd	0 (15 March)	87 (19 April)	2 (02 Aug 20)	253 (17 Jan 21)	3 (23 May)	157 (04 July)	21	49	127	157
Wrexham	0 (08 March)	159 (28 June)	10 (30 Aug 20)	1236 (03 Jan 21)	12 (06 Jun)	425 (04 July)	49	<b>74</b>	201	<b>425</b>

Old WG Trigger Point: **>50**

### CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

	1st Wave - Spring/Summer 2020		2nd Wave - Autumn/Winter 2020/21		3rd Wave - Summer 2021		Last 4 Weeks' Scores			
	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	07/06 - 13/06	14/05 - 20/06	21/06 - 27/06	28/06 - 04/07
Anglesey	0 (29 March)	151 (21 June)	1 (30 Aug 20)	186 (03 Jan 21)	1 (30 May)	139 (04 July)	24	<b>26</b>	87	<b>139</b>
Conwy	0 (22 March)	99 (17 May)	3 (23 Aug 20)	217 (10 Jan 21)	3 (09 May)	165 (04 July)	<b>83</b>	<b>81</b>	102	<b>165</b>
Denbighshire	0 (15 March)	113 (24 May)	4 (30 Aug 20)	430 (10 Jan 21)	0 (02 May)	164 (04 July)	<b>77</b>	<b>72</b>	146	<b>164</b>
Flintshire	0 (08 March)	56 (10 May)	3 (09 Aug 20)	678 (03 Jan 21)	5 (09 May)	240 (04 July)	<b>38</b>	<b>111</b>	161	<b>240</b>
Gwynedd	0 (15 March)	50 (10 May)	2 (02 Aug 20)	203 (17 Jan 21)	2 (23 May)	126 (04 July)	17	39	102	126
Wrexham	0 (08 March)	117 (28 June)	7 (30 Aug 20)	909 (03 Jan 21)	9 (06 Jun)	313 (04 July)	<b>36</b>	<b>54</b>	148	<b>313</b>

Old WG Trigger Points: **25+** **50+** **70+**

### HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

	1st Wave - Spring/Summer 2020		2nd Wave - Autumn/Winter 2020/21		3rd Wave - Summer 2021		Last 4 Weeks' Scores			
	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	07/06 - 13/06	14/05 - 20/06	21/06 - 27/06	28/06 - 04/07
BCUHB	0 (08 March)	91 (17 May)	5 (06 Sep 20)	180 (24 Jan 21)	7 (23 May)	13 (13 June)	13	8	9	11

### DEATHS

	1st Wave - Spring/Summer 2020		2nd Wave - Autumn/Winter 2020/21		3rd Wave - Summer 2021		Last 4 Weeks' Scores			
	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	Lowest Score (Week ending)	Highest Score (Week ending)	07/06 - 13/06	14/05 - 20/06	21/06 - 27/06	28/06 - 04/07
BCUHB	0 (15 March)	56 (19 Apr)	1 (13 Sep 20)	103 (24 Jan 21)	0 (20 June)	Too soon to say	0	0	1	no data

Source: PHW Tableau

Key:

Worst score since the pandemic began in **BOLD** (where this score has been recorded in the last 4 weeks)

## Comment

- **47** new cases were reported today. The latest 7-day rate for new cases is **312.6/100,000** population which is **more than twice what it was last week** (147.8) and 6 times what it was two weeks ago (51.5), though this suggests a slowing of the rate of increase. Positivity (the indicator of community transmission) is **13.1%** compared to **8.1% last week** and 4.0% two weeks ago.
- Wrexham is **1<sup>st</sup> in Wales** for both the rate per 100k and positivity, compared to 2<sup>nd</sup> last week and 4<sup>th</sup> two weeks ago, with significantly higher rates than the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed councils (Flintshire and Conwy, respectively)
- The Delta 'variant of concern' accounts for almost 100% of new cases, and community transmission, through social and household contacts, is the driver of infection rather than travel or work.
- The highest rates of infection are amongst the 20-29 age group, followed by the under 20s. This is because they are the **least vaccinated** and are having the most social interaction with their peers.
- Hospital admission and deaths, thankfully, remain very low, suggesting that **the vaccine is very effective against the Delta variant**, though it is too soon to tell for sure.
- The principal impact of this third wave is disruption to peoples' lives because of large numbers of people having to self-isolate. This is especially true in schools, though the summer holidays are looming.

**TABLE 2: Covid-19 in the Sub-Areas of Wrexham (18 MSOA areas used by PHW in its Tableau)**

SUB AREA	Hotspots* - more than 100/100k population						Least since Oct 2020 where that was in last 7 days					
	CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION										No. OF CASES	
	Worst since 20/10/20		Best since 20/10/20		Reported 2 Weeks Ago 25th June	Reported 1 Week Ago 2nd July	Reported Today 9th July	% change: 20/10/20 to 04/07/21	Cases: 21 days to 04/07	Cases: 7 days to 04/07		
Score	7 days to:	Score	7 days to:	7 days to 20/06/21	7 days to 27/06/21	7 days to 04/07/21						
Acton & Maes-y-dre	910	04/01/2021	<40	20/06/2021	<40	138	178	-68	16	9		
Bangor-on-Dee, Overton & Penley	542	08/01/2021	<31	12/06/2021	75	90	226	88	26	15		
Borras & Rhosnesni	909	04/01/2021	<42	28/06/2021	<42	<42	186	-93	13	0		
Caia Park	1120	09/01/2021	<29	25/06/2021	<29	42	266	-17	22	19		
Cefn Mawr	665	04/11/2020	<22	07/06/2021	33	142	262	-41	40	24		
Chirk & Ceiriog Valley	972	17/01/2021	<31	14/06/2021	62	46	185	-33	19	12		
Coedpoeth & Brymbo	1184	04/01/2021	<22	09/06/2021	88	121	175	-54	35	16		
Gresford, Marford & Rossett	840	08/01/2021	<14	10/06/2021	49	112	224	-20	55	32		
Gwersyllt West & Summerhill	1924	06/01/2021	<34	14/06/2021	101	118	456	-37	40	27		
Hermitage & Whitegate	1622	04/01/2021	<23	23/06/2021	91	160	229	-37	42	20		
Johnstown North & Rhosyllen	1288	01/01/2021	<33	23/06/2021	<33	147	489	-14	39	30		
Llay South & Gwersyllt East	1134	08/01/2021	<25	20/06/2021	<25	137	312	-43	38	25		
New Broughton & Bryn Cefn	1147	04/01/2021	<26	17/06/2021	64	64	271	-42	31	21		
Pen-y-cae & Minera	891	09/01/2021	<35	19/06/2021	52	227	140	-67	24	8		
Rhos & Johnstown South	1167	11/01/2021	<29	23/06/2021	<29	384	1124	276	108	79		
Ruabon & Marchwiel	936	03/01/2021	<31	06/06/2021	121	407	332	29	57	22		
Town North, University & Rhos-ddu	1227	08/01/2021	<23	10/06/2021	45	135	349	-14	47	31		
Wrexham West	1092	12/01/2021	<24	14/06/2021	84	180	312	-56	48	26		
WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH	971	08/01/2021	7	04/06/2021	54	148	313	-26	700	425		

Source: PHW Tableau

## Comment

- All of the 18 sub-areas of Wrexham are now 'hotspots' with more than 100 cases/100,000 population, whereas two weeks ago only two were and three weeks ago there had not been any for months. This confirms that there is widespread community transmission rather than clusters in specific areas, though there are some employment clusters too.
- Several sub-areas have more than 200/100k, a few have more than 400/100k and one, **Rhos & Johnstown South, has 1124/100k.**
- The worst affected sub-areas are in the south and west of the county borough, but most areas are badly affected.

## Impact in Schools

Schools have seen an increase in the number of pupils and staff required to isolate during this week.

Schools are continuing to work within the Welsh Government Operational Guidance and have robust risk assessments in place.

The current position in schools as at 12.00 today is

### STAFF

Current Staff Tested Positive 13 (last Friday 11 Positive Pupils)

Staff in Isolation 146 (last Friday 120 isolations)

### PUPILS

Current Pupils Tested Positive 108 (last Friday 51 Positive pupils)

Pupils in Isolation 4222 (last Friday 2672 isolating)

### SCHOOLS

Number of schools with Current Positive cases reported 30 (last Friday 25)

Number of Schools with Bubble Closures 25 (last Friday 20)

Number of Bubble Closures 46 (last Friday 33)

Schools are continuing to work very hard to manage this situation. They are working to the Welsh Government Operational Guidance and have robust risk assessments in place. They have also taken necessary measures to reduce or cancel additional planned activities.

The support of parents is greatly appreciated with most understanding that we still need to be vigilant in order to protect our young people and in particular those that may be more vulnerable to the effects of the virus. Unfortunately, school leaders have been very frustrated by the behaviour of some parents who believe that it is acceptable to carry on normally whilst awaiting test results. In some cases they have sent pupils into school who rather predictably have subsequently tested positive and impacted negatively on their bubble.

We have recently communicated with parents asking them to help keep schools safe, see below:-

### **Help keep schools safe**

If you're a parent, you can help keep Wrexham schools safe and free from disruption by sticking to the guidelines...

- Make sure your child has a mask if they need one.
- Don't hang about at the school gates.
- Avoid sharing lifts with other households where possible.
- Don't send your child to school if they have symptoms (isolate and get a test)
- Don't send them to school if anyone else at home has symptoms (isolate and get a test).

<https://gov.wales/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19>

We are working closely with our schools to monitor and support them in managing this challenging situation in order enable pupils and staff to have a positive end to the term in what has been an exceptionally challenging year.

### **KEY MESSAGES**

The spread of the Delta Variant continues to have an impact on our communities and within schools. Whilst we continue to have one eye on Recovery and our future beyond the pandemic, managing our individual and collective response to the recovery remains essential.