



Update on General COVID-19 Related Matters

QSEC Meeting October 2021

Situation

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Quality, Safety and Experience Committee (QSEC) with an update with regards to general COVID-19 related matters

Update: General COVID-19 Related Matters

The current position locally, in respect of COVID-19, has seen a significant increase in community acquired infection rates. The impact of the pandemic on patients and staff will continue for the foreseeable future.

Levels of infection remain high within the Health Board community (a rate of 531.1:100,000 per 7 days, with a positivity rate of 14.2% as at 26th September 2021). A rise in infection amongst patients and staff across hospital, care home and community settings has also been seen.

Update	Risk	Mitigation
Harm from COVID-19 itself	<p>Vaccination Vaccination uptake has been positive, and the Health Board met targets to offer all eligible adults an invitation for their first dose by the end of May 2021.</p> <p>Recently there have been a number of updates to the programme including an offer to all 16-17 year olds of a single dose Pfizer vaccine, a third primary dose for people who were severely immune suppressed during their primary course, a booster programme for everyone in JCVI groups 1-10 to receive an additional vaccine 6+ months after their initial course, a course of Pfizer vaccine to 12-15 year olds who are clinically vulnerable or living with someone severely immune suppressed and a single dose Pfizer vaccine to all 12-15 year olds.</p> <p>The Health Board has plans for vaccinating all new groups and is on target to deliver in line with Welsh Government guidelines.</p>	<p>The Health Board has continued to flex and demonstrate agility through the vaccination plans established in line with vaccine availability. In addition to being the only Health Board in Wales to use the Moderna vaccine, the Health Board has established new sites for vaccination centres, worked with the fire service to provide a mobile vaccination service and continued to work with the Local Authority teams across the three counties (The Phoenix Partnership (Test Trace Protect (TTP)) staff) to support proactive phone calls made to members of the public prior to their appointment</p>
Harm from overwhelmed NHS and social care system	<p>Testing Testing capacity and the testing system has been stretched over recent weeks, however, we have sufficient capacity to manage demand and turnaround times for results to remain acceptable. We are watching this closely.</p>	<p>Consideration is being given to re-enact Risk 1017 (the Health Board will not be able to facilitate the potential increased demand for testing our Health and Social Care staff and all 'critical workers' to fulfil the 'Test to Release' guidance that is pending review from Welsh Government (WG), should demand starts to look like it may outstrip capacity.</p>

Update: General-COVID-19 Related Matters(continued)

Update	Risk	Mitigation
<p>Harm from wider societal actions/ lockdown</p>	<p>Social Distancing Social distancing, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and other standard Infection Prevention and Control measures remain in place until such time that WG guidance and policy changes. However, maintaining compliance with social distancing is becoming challenging as wider lockdown easements are introduced.</p> <p>Risk of non compliance with Regulations 16 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No.5) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (the “Coronavirus Regulations”) <i>(Risk 1016)</i></p>	<p>Wales COVID-19 Level 0 from 7th August 2021– some restrictions remain in law e.g. self isolation, use of face covering. Guidance received from Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Interim Chief Nursing Officer. Meetings have been held with various General Managers across the Health Board to discuss the implications on the potential to reduce social distance measures in particular. A summary of these discussions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with a cautious approach to mitigate the risks of SARS CoV-2 infection within health and social care setting. • Areas/departments where it is possible to improve patient care/service delivery by reducing the social distance measure to 1 metre is being considered carefully by the relevant management teams. • Changes to the seating arrangements in Out Patient Departments is currently being scoped. This will potentially include the installation of screens between chairs. • Reducing the current 2 metre distance to 1 metre in ‘low risk’ areas will enable changes to offices, staff rooms and other potential locations. • It is not expected that bed spacing will be reduced in our clinical settings as a result of this latest guidance. <p>Each Management Team is expected to review their existing COVID-19 (social distance) risk assessments in light of the above advice.</p> <p>The Health Board’s generic COVID-19 risk assessment first published with the Social Distancing Guidance has been revised to reflect the above and can be used as a guide for managers to adapt for their own areas of work.</p>

Update: General COVID-19 Related Matters (continued)

Update	Risk	Mitigation
4. Harm from wider societal actions/ lockdown	Social Distancing <i>(continued)</i>	Patient Visiting Arrangements The current visiting arrangements will remain in place and include the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visiting will be pre-booked in advance to ensure adherence with social distancing measures and restrictions.• All face-to-face visits are subject to the approval from the clinician/nurse in charge.• An agreed time slot for the visitor to attend the ward.• One daily visitor during the specified time slot. Signage/Communication Social distance and COVID-19 signs have been replaced in certain areas of Health Board premises to address replacing worn and faded signage. Any room capacity changes will need to be reflected in updated signs also.

Recommendation

The Quality, Safety and Experience Committee is asked to:

- Note the information provided in the presentation on general COVID-19 related matters.
- Take assurance that continued monitoring of the local and national situation is being undertaken and the Health Board is adapting to and adopting changes and requirements at pace.