

Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

April 2022

Covid-19 update

In the last few weeks, the number of people in our region testing positive for Covid-19 has increased dramatically.

At the beginning of March, daily positive test results stood at around 560, but that has now risen to more than 1,100.

In light of these concerning statistics, staff at BSW CCG have been reminding people of the important behavioural changes everyone has made over the past two year: staying home and away from others when showing Covid-19 symptoms wearing a face-covering in enclosed public spaces and maintaining social distancing when out and about.

People aged 75 and over, as well as those residing in a care home, are now able to have their Covid-19 immunity topped up with a second booster vaccine.

Those coming forward for this new jab, which for many people is their fourth vaccination, will need to have had their first booster dose at least three months ago.

However, while this additional top-up dose can be given 12 weeks after the first, experts suggest it is best for people to receive the second booster after a period of six months.

Ongoing pressures on local health and care system

Health and care services in Wiltshire have continued to experience pressures over the past few weeks as hospitals and surgeries struggle with high numbers of patients with Covid, covid-related staff absence and patients affected by usual winter pressures.

Appeals to the public to support services during this difficult time are ongoing. The main messages being for people to use our health services appropriately, support hospitals by collecting loved ones as soon as they are ready to go home, using our pharmacies for help and support wherever possible and using the online 111 service in the first instance.

To help address these pressures in Wiltshire and help the flow of patients from the Salisbury Foundation Hospital, a number of schemes were put in place including the opening beds in South Newton Hospital and the provision of a discharge grant to support patients being discharged to home.

Schemes such as this were only ever intended as temporary measures to help alleviate system pressures and BSW CCG will be assessing how effective the schemes have been so we can take forward learnings for periods of sustained pressure on services in the future.

BSW ICS update

Following the appointment of Sue Harriman as Executive Designate of the BSW Integrated Care Board and four Non-Executive Directors to oversee Audit, Public and Community Engagement, Remuneration and People and Quality & Performance, the recruitment process at the BSW ICS is continuing.

Recruitment is currently underway for Director positions for Medical, Planning & Performance, Strategy & Transformation, Chief Nurse and Director of Place roles and announcements on successful applicants for these positions will be made shortly.

As part of its ongoing work to address inequalities the BSW Partnership is developing a new strategy to make sure that tackling inequalities is everybody's business and that there is a long-term commitment to tackling these issues across BSW. Inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences that can impact on the health across different communities driven by factors such as education, housing, employment, ethnicity and access to health services and programmes.

Steve Maddern, Director of Public Health at Swindon Borough Council has been appointed as Senior Responsible Officer for Inequalities and is being supported by a Health Inequalities Project Manager.

The BSW Academy launched on 28th February and is now available for all health and care staff working in BSW.

The BSW Academy is a new initiative, enabling collaboration across health and care services for the benefit of the people working with us and those in our local communities. The BSW Academy brings together teams from across all of our health and care providers as part of a network and mobilised through the core five pillars of: Leadership, Learning, Inclusion, Innovation, and Improvement.

The Wiltshire Integrated Care Alliance also held a strategy session this month to discuss items including principles and priorities for 2022/23. The session was attended by health and care organisations from across Wiltshire.