

County Councillor Report for Glastonbury Town Council - 10.11.20

Somerset Covid update 9.11.20

Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health, reported at the SCC Cabinet meeting that there has been a significant increase in positive cases in Somerset this past week – 95.1 per 100,000. That brings the total to 3496 detected cases, 46 open outbreaks.

We go in to the second lockdown with higher figures than the previous lockdown, so this action to restrict movement and meeting of people is the right thing at the right time for Somerset.

The most significant increase is in Sedgemoor, being driven by community transmission, particularly in Brean area. Much more red and amber areas on the Somerset map, the higher numbers were just around our borders but are now across the whole county. Public health officers are working with police to ensure compliance on lockdown restrictions.

R rate for south west is 1.2 – 1.4, updated on 6th November. Somerset is probably in middle of that range. We are catching up with other areas in South West.

SCC keen to take an enhanced role in tracing contacts in Somerset. They have been working on local tracing for some months but Govt seem to be suggesting more resources may be deployed locally.

All Covid deaths in Somerset = 209. For some time, we had no Covid deaths in Somerset but now we have increasing numbers in hospitals and one recent death in a care home. The virus is moving into the older part of our population, we have to keep the virus out of vulnerable population, this lockdown has to work for us.

Somerset is waiting for a decision on mandatory face coverings on school transport, with exemptions where appropriate. Support will be offered to schools where needed. This is for year 7 upwards, so secondary/middle school pupils, not primary.

Local hospitals – a more challenging position although still coping. Some transmission within hospitals now, difficult to stop that although good work has taken place in reducing the level of transmission

Children – not seeing level of transmission in school settings. Schools & parents are moving quickly on isolation of single cases so little transmission is seen between children, particularly younger children, although some between staff.

Update on Free School Meals & Family funding from Govt 9.11.20

Julian Wooster, Director of Children and Families, reported that the Somerset funding is just over £1.5million. Funding will be directed at:

- Free school meals, through the schools grant mechanism
- Out of school activities
- Support for families with newborn babies

Liz Leysdon

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