

Issue 19

Wrexham Community support response to Recovery stage from Covid

Briefing Sheet update 27th July 2020

Stop Press- released from Wrexham Council 4.30pm today

The usual Weekend release of the Briefing has been delayed till today to ensure that the most current information on the response to the current increase in Covid cases in Wrexham has been included.

Easy-access testing for people in communities on the edge of Wrexham town centre (WCBC)



Mobile testing units are being introduced this week to make it easier for people living in communities on the edge of Wrexham town centre to get a Covid-19 test.

The easy-access testing facilities will be based in Hightown and Caia Park for several days starting from Wednesday (July 29).

As well as making it easier to get a test, the move will help public health experts get a better understanding of the situation in Wrexham.

Residents living in these areas are being encouraged to get a test if they think they have symptoms...no matter how mild.

The work is being co-ordinated by Public Health Wales, Wrexham Council and other partners, with support from local voluntary sector organisation AVOW and community groups.

Just like in other parts of the country, the testing stations will be managed by the army.

Making it easier for people to get tested

Councillor Hugh Jones, Wrexham Council's Lead Member for Communities, Partnerships, Public Protection and Community Safety, says:

"We're working with our partners to provide easy-access testing in edge-of-town communities in Wrexham.

"As well as making it easier for people to get a test, it will also help Public Health Wales gain further insight into the local situation.

"The mobile testing units will be based in Hightown and Caia Park over the next few days, and you can go to either testing station if you live in and around these areas. The process is quick and easy."

However, if you feel really unwell, you should still contact your GP as normal (or call 999 if you think there's something seriously wrong).

For example, don't try to walk to a testing centre if you're struggling to catch your breath.

Even if you have mild symptoms, you should get a test

Dr Chris Williams of Public Health Wales says:

“Providing easy-access testing will help us further understand the situation in Wrexham.

“We’re encouraging anyone who thinks they may have symptoms – even very mild ones – to take advantage of the mobile testing units while they’re in the area, and go and get a test.

“Testing is a really important part of the strategy for managing Covid-19 in Wales, so it’s important people step forward if they think they have symptoms.

“Covid-19 can spread in community settings, not just in workplaces.

“If you do test positive, you’ll be given advice by contact tracers at Wrexham Council.

“They’ll advise you on how long to isolate for and what support you can get to help you through the isolation period.

“They’ll also ask for your help in tracing people you’ve been in close contact with recently.”

If you’re worried about work

A lot of people might be worried about getting a test in case it means they have to isolate and can’t go to work.

Councillor Hugh Jones says:

“People need to pay bills and put food on the table, and it’s understandable that many will worry about testing positive and having to miss work.

“However, a lot of people may be able to get financial support (<https://gov.wales/financial-support-for-individuals>) and the council and its partners will help people access this information.”

Let’s keep Wrexham safe and well

Councillor Jones adds:

“If you think you have symptoms – no matter how mild – please take advantage of the easy access testing in Hightown and Caia Park later this week.

“Public Health Wales, the council and our partners are here to support you. Let’s help keep Wrexham, our families and communities safe and well.

“It’s also important to remember that coronavirus hasn’t gone away, and we all still have a vital role to play in preventing its spread by sticking to social distancing guidelines and staying two metres away from others, as well as washing our hands regularly.”

Where and when you can get a test

The mobile testing centres will be at Caia Park Health Centre on Prince Charles Road, and at a location in Hightown yet to be finalised, from Wednesday, July 29.

We'll confirm the location in Hightown as soon as possible.

You can just turn-up between 8am and 7pm. It's safe, simple and easy.

Other ways to get a test

You can also apply for a test online or by phone. (<https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test>)

Take a look at the Welsh Government website for more info.

Remember...if you feel really unwell, you should still contact your GP as normal (or call 999 if you think there's something seriously wrong).

Test Trace Protect – TTP:

The Wales response to testing is Test Trace and Protect which is regularly called TTP. The system is only going to be effective if anyone who is contacted by a Tracer follows the instructions and if appropriate isolate for 14 days- people will only be contacted if someone who has tested positive has provided details of those they have been in contact with and locations that they have visited with someone identified as being in close proximity and at risk of the transmission of Covid. You will not be told who the person is that has proved positive.

<https://gov.wales/contact-tracing-if-you-are-confirmed-contact>

People who are contacted will be advised of what support is available for anyone having to isolate or direct contact can be made to the AVOW Covid Helpdesk. If anyone finds themselves in this position without any support they are able to contact covid19@avow.org or tel 312556

- [Written statement: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Update on Outbreaks and Incident at meat and food processing sites in Wales](#) (Health Minister) (3 July)

Covid and Flu: Mass vaccination

As if Covid is not enough there are significant concerns about the impact this could have with the usual winter flu outbreaks that occur in varying degrees each year. Discussions are still underway between the Welsh and UK Governments in what a mass vaccination programme would consist of- the latest Welsh Government announcement on the 24th July has stated-

The potential for co-circulation of COVID-19 at the same time will make this year's flu vaccination programme even more vital. Alongside extending the programme it's important that those in the existing eligible groups including those aged over 65 years, pregnant women and people with medical conditions are vaccinated first. Increasing uptake in health and social care workers will also be a key priority this season.

This will no doubt be a major step to try and improve the overall, safety of the population and particularly those in vulnerable groups. Details will be emerging over the next few week but currently this is the full statement on the issue. <https://gov.wales/wales-announces-largest-ever-flu-vaccine-programme>

What is changing today in Wales: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-52631835>

The latest changes in Wales as part of the lifting of the Covid lockdown restrictions are all part of the phased approach to try and bring some new normality to our lives. The opening of new facilities will come with a number of restrictions and everyone wanting to use these should make contact in advance as many will only be open for people with appointments and limited numbers.

Cinemas, museums and beauty salons

Face masks on public transport, including taxis, will also be made compulsory for anyone over the age of 11. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-52631835>

Campsites and accommodation with shared facilities can reopen on Saturday.

What is changing soon- 16th August - <https://bit.ly/2WUW9si>

Shielding- the group of people who have been 'Shielding' because of a variety of medical conditions will be allowed out of their homes from the 16th August. For many this will be a relief but for others their anxiety levels may be so high that they feel that unable to leave their home and may need ongoing support for some of their basic needs such as shopping and prescriptions.

The scheme is being 'suspended' as it may well be resumed at any time if the risk factors increase due to the number of cases or spread.

The immediate impact will be those that have been in receipt of Welsh Government food parcels will not get one after the 16th August. In Wrexham there are approximately 220 people in this category.

There will be a very comprehensive letter going to everyone who has previously received a Shielding letter in the next week. The letter contains details of what to do and where to receive help if needed. For Wrexham, the first contact point will be the Council 292000.

Playgrounds reopened last Friday in time for children during the school holidays to go out and play <https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/play-areas-due-to-open-tomorrow-24-07-20/> there have been adaptations to the access and some equipment may remain closed. The public are asked to respect the moves the Council have implemented to try and make the facilities as safe as possible. The message is enjoy the facilities but remember social distancing and stay safe.



Due to the current restrictions on large gatherings the very popular Playday which sees many 1000's of children and parents descend on the town centre won't take place this year as a face to face event instead it will be 'virtual'. The virtual event will take place on 5th August more details will be available soon- <http://www.wrexham.com/news/how-you-can-take-part-in-everyday-adventures-with-next-months-virtual-playday-189994.html>

Town centre – the town has reopened with many businesses now welcoming customers back after months of closure. The Council have put in many plans to help support social distancing which the public need to adhere to.



Remember social distancing of 2 metres still applies

Businesses have adapted the layout of their premises to create more space for customers to move around and food establishments have added more outdoor tables and chairs.

The Council Car parks are remaining free to encourage more people to visit the town and support local businesses who are facing a great deal of financial pressure as they rebuild.

SHOPMOBILITY – is OPEN for customers for town use or loans to use for trips



The AVOW run service operated from the bus station will be reopening this Thursday 16th July. Initial opening will be Thursday and Fridays 10.00am – 4.00pm for access to a wide range of Mobility Scooters and wheelchairs also booty scooters for easy transport in the boot of a car. Tel – 312556 or info@avow.org

Thanks to TESCO and the CoOp for grants that have enabled the purchase of a fogging machines and other items to ensure the safety of our customers and staff.

Faith Buildings - St. Giles church has held its first face to face service last week and remains open between 10.00am and noon Monday to Saturday. All the work on the drive has been completed and the main gate entry is now open.



Several other faith groups have opened their buildings, and everyone should check online for details. Plans are now being made to start reintroducing weddings at many of these locations.

<https://gov.wales/guidance-members-public-marriage-and-civil-partnership-ceremonies-coronavirus>

Community Centres/Buildings: OPEN or CLOSED!!! - There has been much confusion over



whether a Community Centre/Facilities can open following the First Minister announcement they could from the 20th July. The full message regarding open on the 20th July is they can but only at the request of a Welsh Government Minister or Local Authority for the express purpose to provide defined Public Services. Changes to this will not be known until the full Welsh Government guidance that was due last week becomes available.

AVOW held a meeting recently for several people running community buildings to come together and share practical tips on how to prepare for the day when the key can go open their doors again. If anyone wants to be added to the list to for the next event (this will occur once the guidance is out) or a free resource booklet email Rafat Arshad-Roberts rafat.arshad-roberts@avow.org

Childcare:



Whilst several childcare settings have closed for the summer there are still a few operating for the children of key workers or vulnerable children. Full details of what provision may be available from the Wrexham Family Information service. 01978 292094

School Opening:



Following the last three weeks of term when school staff and pupils were adapting to how they can manage with children from September parents will be receiving information from schools about future arrangements. Each school will be working to their own plans which will consider all the current guidance that is available when they are due to open in September. This will be a very anxious time for everyone, and it is important that parents and pupils follow the rules that will be in place to ensure everyone can remain safe.

<https://gov.wales/education-minister-announces-back-school-plans-september>



Community Food banks and other provision survey:

Thanks to those local food schemes that have completed the survey to identify the scale of food support available across our communities.

This is an important piece of work as many of the 'pop up' schemes that have been established are likely to be short term whilst funding is available. It is important that there is a balance between making food available for those in need vs the creation of food dependency. There are many reasons why people need to access food bank type provision and the result of the survey will help to support those organisations that will continue in different forms.

The closing date for the survey is the 29th July and any schemes that have not currently completed this are urged to do so as soon as possible so a while picture can be developed.

Please pass this link to anyone in your community or organisation who are involved with 'food bank' type of support <https://bit.ly/2W6fC99>

If you provide or know someone that provides pre packed ready meals or hot food please use this link <https://bit.ly/38NRLQF>

Please reply by 22nd July.

Funding.

One of the initial findings of the survey results so far is that groups are still seeking funding for what they are currently doing or plan.

Comic Relief Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund



AVOW have received a £26,000 share of the funding from the Comic Relief A Big Night In- the fund was launched on the 13th July and full application is available now from –

<https://avow.org/2020/07/08/comic-relief-grant-fund/> - the criteria are that each project must meet at least one of these themes-

Children survive and thrive – Actions to give children the best start in life and access to opportunities to achieve their potential

Gender justice – Actions to improve equality for women and girls

A safe place to be – Actions to help vulnerable people improve their circumstances and safety
Mental health matters – Actions to enable access to support and increase awareness.

AVOW and Hydro Aluminium Deeside



We are pleased to announce a new partnership to support community organisations in Wrexham

Wrexham based Hydro Aluminium Deeside is the largest recycler of aluminium in Wales and is leading the low carbon agenda with their low carbon brand Hydro CIRCAL® 75R.

Throughout the coronavirus crisis, they have maintained their focus on employees' health & safety and, at the same time, have managed to retain all jobs and keep the wheels turning. However, as part of a global organization, Hydro is operating in many different local communities who are experiencing different challenges because of the pandemic.

Managing Director, Wayne Clifton, said "we strongly believe it is important to support our local communities and so are offering four £500 grants to local sports or cultural organisations who need to adapt to the new situations we are faced with as a result of the pandemic".

Email: info@avow.org for an application form- Closing date 31st July 2020

We want your stories and Photo's for Wrexham Lockdown: Lockdown photos needed

If you have any photos of what has been going on in your community- whether it be individuals running errands to support people or showing how your organisation has adapted.

We would like to create a mural on our web site depicting how we have all been coping with the Covid Lockdown and the mood of people.

If you have any photos or stories email info@avow.org

Please make sure if you are sending a photo of someone else you have their permission.

There is a limit of 3 photos from individuals and 5 from organisations or businesses. Closing date 31st July 2020

To Mask or not to Mask

No Masks



One Mask



Two Masks



NOW DO YOU GET IT?

Key web sites for resources and up to date information

<https://twitter.com/AvowWrexham>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=owain%20avow%20wrexham>



The Council is maintaining an information site where local and national information can be found.

<https://beta.wrexham.gov.uk/service/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information>



Welsh Government advice for Voluntary Organisations

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-the-third-sector-html>

Welsh Government Update:

A full comprehensive list of the various updates for Wales are available on the Welsh Government site <https://gov.wales/announcements/search>

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There is a vast amount of information available but be selective or you will spend more time reading rather than providing the resource.

<https://wcva.cymru/coronavirus-statement/>

Information disclaimer:

AVOW hopes to keep this as a weekly briefing to share with our community's support information and guidance- if there are issues you want information on email john.gallanders@avow.org

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