

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda
Item No.

Report of the Director of Public Health

To
Health & Wellbeing Board

on
2nd December 2020

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Director of Public Health

For information only		For discussion	X	Approval required	
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Coronavirus Pandemic Management Updates from the Health Protection Board and the Oversight and Engagement Board

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

Purpose

This is to provide an update on the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan implementation of the national Test, Trace, Contain and Enable (TTCE) programme.

Background

The TTCE programme is a central part of UK government's COVID-19 recovery strategy. The primary objectives are to control the COVID-19 rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of infection and save lives, and in doing so help return life to as normal as possible, for as many people as possible, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and releases our economy.

Achieving these objectives will require a coordinated effort from local and national government, the NHS, General Practice, businesses and employers, voluntary organisations and other community partners, and the general public.

Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP)

Local planning and response will be essential. Response may include appropriate local containment strategies, the implementation of which is expected to be achieved within the existing legal framework and by appealing to the public's sense of civic duty and working with local community leaders.

The [eighth version](#) (click this link for access to the document) of the Southend LOCP was updated on the 25th September with new guidance and will remain a dynamic document. This

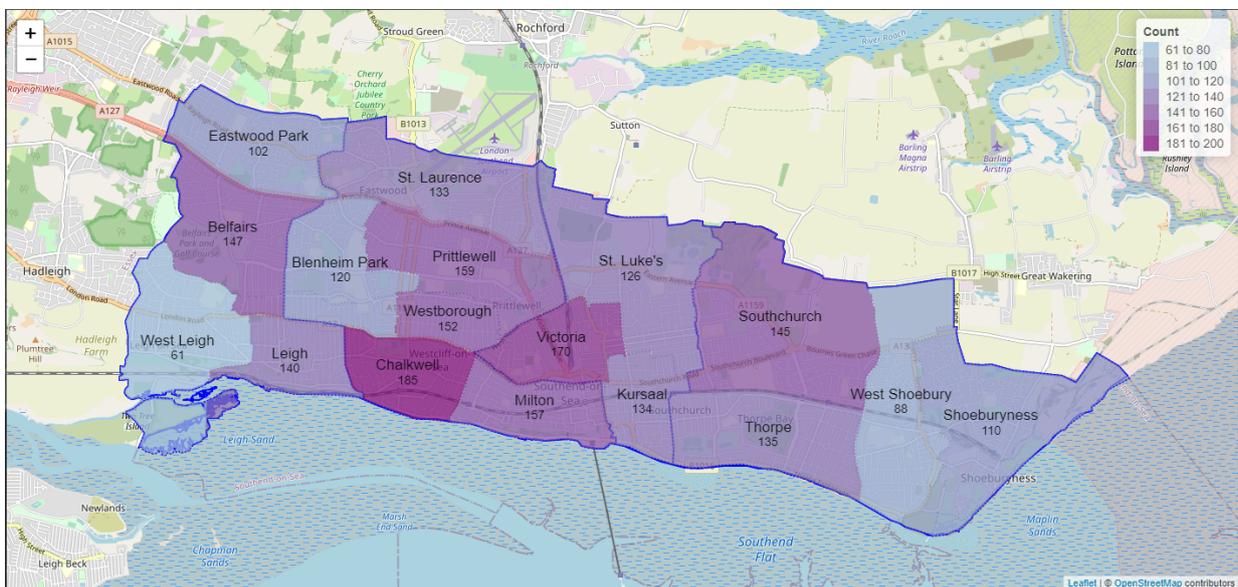
will be updated again with the new announcement about the changes to the tiered restrictions.

Local Boards & Pandemic Management

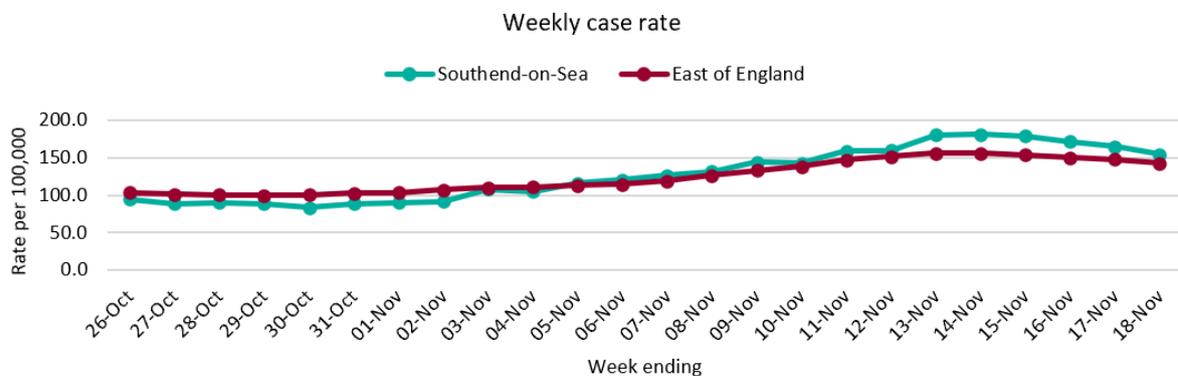
- The Outbreak Control Oversight and Engagement Board (**O&E Board**)

The Health Protection Board (HPB) continues to meet weekly and receives the local Surveillance Report monitoring of our testing capabilities, infection rate, mortality rate, positivity rate, level of contact tracing any report and case reviews of local outbreaks and the hospital utilisation information.

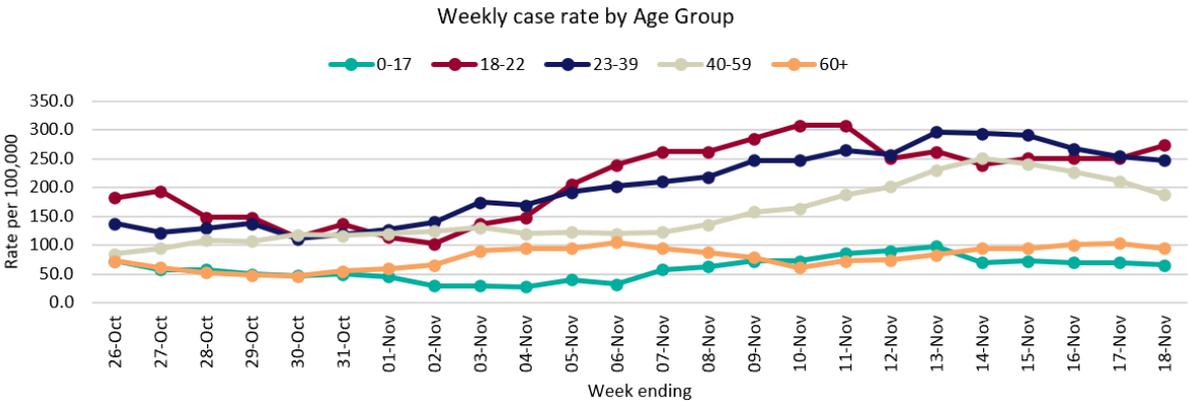
We have had over 2,300 positive tests recorded across Southend since the start of the pandemic. This is evenly spread across the borough as highlighted in the map below.



The incidence rate during the first two weeks of lockdown climbed steeply, mainly due to a combination of events – half-term, Halloween and the ‘rush to beat lockdown’. Our highest rate was 181/100,000, although we are now seeing a gradual reduction in incidence.



We are seeing marked differences in virus transmission in age groups, with the younger cohorts being more susceptible. The 18-22 and 23-39 age groups have been a more challenging concern and we continue to explore new ways to engage and communicate the risk of virus transmission with them.



The HPB will be reviewing our proposed strategy to introduce the use of community testing – Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) – across a number of settings during December 2020.

The Outbreak Control Oversight and Engagement Board continues to lead on a number of communication and engagement activities, including refreshing our messaging to the public and local businesses. We continue to hold regular webinars with schools and businesses and we are actively engaged with a multi-media social marketing campaign. We are making use of social influencers to target key groups, such as younger people (<39 years), in promoting our key messages of maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and using face covering in the appropriate settings. Further messaging is planned as we exit the second lockdown and to ensure our communities can continue to operate safely, support with the higher footfall from the Christmas shopping and festivities.

The Board will also support with messaging of implementing the LFD testing programme and will support our local NHS in delivering the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

All our actions and local interventions are reviewed and shared with the Regional Test and Trace Support and Assurance Team.

Recommendation

1. For the HWB Board to note progress and ongoing implementation of the Local Outbreak Control Plan by the Local Health Protection Board and the Outbreak Control Oversight and Engagement Board.