



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

# Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership:

# COVID-19 Update

9 March 2021



# COVID-19

## Latest situation

- Current rate of cases per 100k in the Borders is 19.0 (to 5 March)
- 22 cases over 7 days & test positivity rate of 1.2%
- Although it is an improving picture 'Stay at Home' message remains in place
- Highly contagious variant means COVID-19 can spread much more quickly and cases could rapidly increase again

# Schools



From Monday (15 March):

- All P4-P7 to return on a full-time basis, joining P1-3s and children in Early Learning and Childcare settings who went back last month. There is no need for social distancing in primary school so all children will return to their usual classes.
- Secondary pupils to receive some in-school education from 15 March-2 April, when Easter holidays begin. S4-S6 pupils studying for national qualifications will be prioritised for this face-to-face learning.
- A full-time return for secondary school pupils to take place after the Easter Holidays.
- Extensive planning from SBC. Information issued to parents/carers with more details to be communicated over next couple of days

# Testing



- Community testing (asymptomatic testing) – plans are being finalised to expand the local programme – communications on this are likely towards the end of this week
- Important as many people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and will be spreading it without realising it
- Mobile Testing Unit available at Teviotdale Leisure Centre for both those with symptoms and those without
- If you have any COVID-19 symptoms you should book a test (and self-isolate immediately)
- Tests can be booked by:
  - Visiting [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test), or
  - calling 0800 028 2816



# Support for Businesses

- We are continuing to see a steady stream of businesses applying for various business support funds administered by the Council
- The Borders Discretionary Support Fund for Business has now closed to applications (was open for 3 weeks in Feb)
- Approx. 500 businesses have applied for the fund and a review is currently underway to examine each application and distribute funds accordingly
- Other major funds that remain open include the Strategic Framework Business Fund, Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund and the Mobile and Home Based Close Contact Services Fund



# Community Assistance Hubs

- Community Assistance Hubs remain operational to co-ordinate any support required within localities, including financial & wellbeing
- They continue to work closely with Customer Advice & Support and Social Work colleagues and a range of partners locally
- The Hubs can be scaled up to previous levels if the need arises
- Anyone in need should call 0300 100 1800 to access support or visit [www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus)

# Vaccination programme



- 46,211 people have received first dose in the Borders (47.9%) up to 5 March
- Wave 1 (Groups 1&2) & Wave 2 (Groups 3,4 & 5) on *Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)* list complete and now focussing on second doses
- Wave 3 (Groups 6,7,8 & 9) well underway. These groups include:
  - individuals aged 16 to 64 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease & mortality
  - all those 60 years of age and over
  - all those 55 years of age and over
  - all those 50 years of age and over
- Wave 3 now expected to be complete by mid-April and the rest of the adult population to be complete by end of July