

Parish & Member Update 121220

Good morning to everybody. It's been another busy week especially for us twin Hatters with a huge amount going on. Needless to say, our focus will be on the government's decision on tiering. The timeline has changed slightly, and the intention is to assess the figures for each area on the 14th of December and make an announcement on the 16th. Our hope and expectation is that Warwickshire will be considered in isolation.

The vaccine rollout seems to be going well and it was just great to see that as a region the World's first vaccination happened in Coventry's University Hospital, going to Margaret Keenan and a William (Bill) Shakespeare. We hope, as a County, to be vaccinating 400 people a day by next week. With a population of approaching 600,000 you can see that it will take quite a time to vaccinate everybody. The hope is that when the Oxford vaccine arrives, which can be stored in a domestic fridge, more vaccination centres can be used. The government are currently encouraging health professionals to volunteer to help with the vaccinations although it is the supply of the vaccine which is preventing a major roll out. In Water Orton, the first place in Warwickshire for a lateral flow testing centre, they were testing 200 people per day but only one case per day was found to be positive. It's also important to remember that the vaccine will not start to have any real impact until Easter.

Figures released yesterday show that for the SDC area the seven day rate/100,000 is now down to 52.3/100,000 (a slight increase from its lowest of 45.4) and the over 60's day rate is currently 41/100,000 with 17 cases over the last seven days which is encouraging particularly when compared to other districts in Warwickshire which are (for all ages) Nuneaton & Bedworth 183/100,000, North Warwickshire 124/100,000, Rugby 106/100,000 and Warwick 124/100,000. All are generally dropping though.

There are five criteria the government will assess the tiering of area on: -

- 1) Whether the 60 plus category infection rate is dropping
- 2) The general trajectory of the virus (dropping)
- 3) The case detection rate in all age groups is dropping
- 4) The positivity rate (number of people testing positive after a test)
- 5) The pressure on NHS services

The situation regarding the open SWFT Hospital Beds has seen a slight increase of Covid inpatients with 42 (31) confirmed cases of COVID-19 and two (5) patients in ICU (last week's figures in brackets).

The cumulative deaths across Stratford District from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) have sadly increased by a further two to 20, with 10 occurring in care homes, nine in hospital and one at home, out of a total of 307 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now tragically jumped to 88 from 42 last week for a total of 1408 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 188 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 688; over the same period there have been 5059 non Covid-19 related deaths in Warwickshire.

As you may know, Stratford District Council is exerting as much pressure as possible on the Government to reduce the tiering level and put Stratford on Avon District in line with those in at least Tier 2. Cllr Tony Jefferson, the Leader of SDC, has again written to Secretary of State Matt

Hancock today requesting that the district be made a special case in a bid to help our hospitality businesses which have been forced to close their doors. Tourism and hospitality accounts for 40% of our economy and we are seriously worried that many may not survive or reopen their doors until February, even if we are downgraded to Tier 2. Please continue to support the local businesses where possible.

We will want to see our friends and family over Christmas, however we must be careful not to allow the rate of infection to increase. I want to thank all of our residents who have been excellent at controlling the spread of the virus so let's continue the good work.

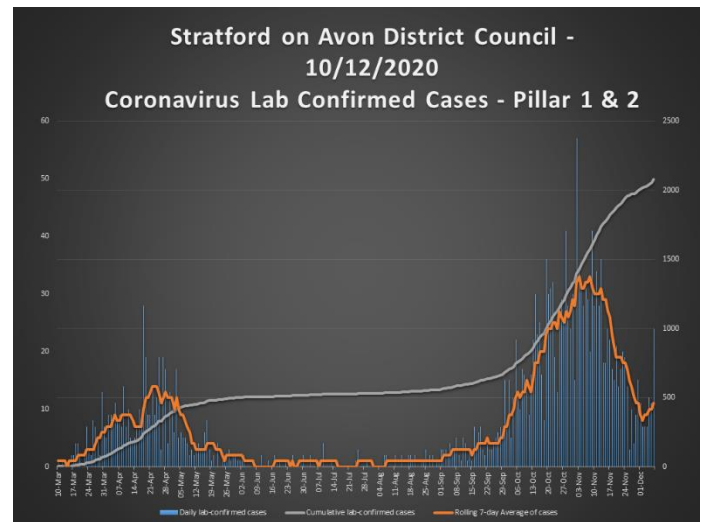
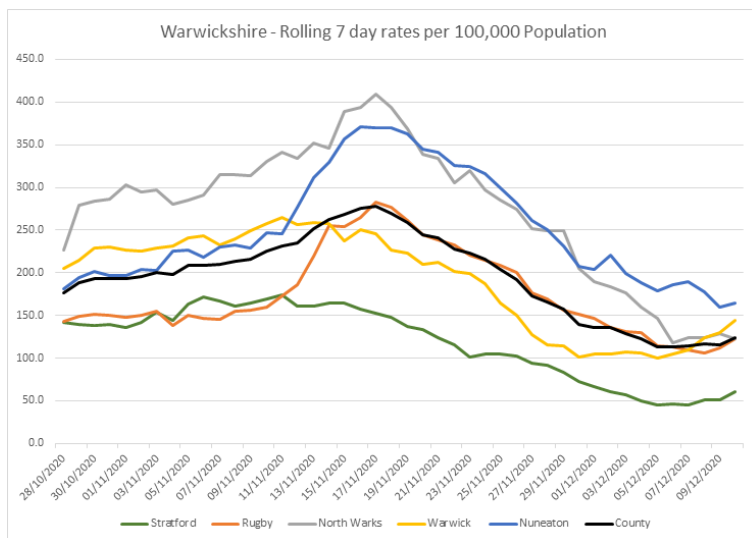
Best wishes

Mark

Alcester Division

Alcester & Rural Ward

Update chart showing a slight increase in numbers



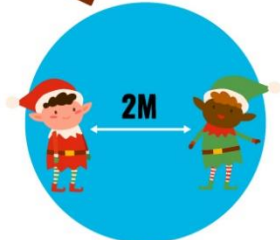
Enjoy a safe Christmas...

Enjoy Christmas safely this year...



...to make sure we all have a better 2021

Enjoy a safe Christmas...



Hands

Face

Space