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9th OCT COVID-19 2 SISTERS PLANT

Date of meeting: 26 June 2020

Time of meeting: 13:30-14:30

Venue for meeting: Skype meeting

Version: 0a DRAFT

Present:

	Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, PHW	
	Health Protection Nurse, PHW	
	Principal Public Health Practitioner, PHW	
	Specialist Registrar, PHW	
	Communications Manager, PHW	
	Deputy Director of Public Health Services, PHW	
	Healthcare Epidemiologist, PHW	
	Executive Director of Public Health, BCu HB	
	Clinical Scientist Lead for Zoonoses, GI & Emerging Infections, PHW	
	Environmental Health Manager, Anglesey CBC	
	Chief Public Protection Officer, Anglesey CBC	
	Community & Business Manager, Flintshire County Borough Council	
	Public Protection Manager, Gwynedd County Borough Council	
	Deputy Chief Executive, Anglesey CBC	
	Health & Safety Executive	
	Betsi Cadwaladr UHB (representing Dr Motters)	
	Incident Officer, Food Standards Agency	
	Staff Officer, North Wales Police	
	Local Resilience Forum Co-ordinator - North Wales	
	GP, Cluster Lead for Anglesey	
	Deputy Director Community Safety Division, WG	
	Senior Environmental Health Advisor for COVID-19, WG	

	Minutes	
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Apologies: (Flintshire County Borough Council) –
representing.

1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes from previous meeting and action log The minutes from the previous meeting (25/06/2020) will be circulated in due course. Any amendments to be sent to . Refer to the updated action log for wider comments. The following actions were closed: 24, 73, 78, 82, 86, 87, 88.	
3.	Background and context All attendees are familiar with the background and context.	
4.	Epidemiological summary of cases (GB) provided a summary of cases as of today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 new cases identified in the last 24 hours (likely to be those who were tested later than the initial group) Total: 210 positive cases and 289 negative failed result due to insufficient swab sample 84 individuals have not had a result as yet, of these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 have been swabbed There is no record of the other 50 being tested and for most of these no accurate contact details are held. OCT need to make a decision on how to proceed today. To be discussed under testing and sampling. CDSC update on wider epidemiological context () provided a brief overview of the "front door" surveillance system that has been set up in Ysbyty Gwynedd, where individuals are assessed for suspected COVID19 and tested upon admission. staff are following up those testing positive, to identify any connection to the 2 Sisters site (including whether they work there themselves, have contact with any other staff, live with/travel with any staff members etc.). This data will be received by OCT going forward. shared a series of slides providing some wider epidemiological context for OCT to consider. <i>Note: these slides have not been circulated, as the data pin points by postcode and could be considered as containing PII.</i> Slide 1 showed the total count of confirmed COVID19 cases in June (taken from CRM data). This includes data from all testing	

sites and the Lighthouse Labs data. "Factory Link" cases include workers and identified contacts. ■■■ noted that sustained transmission appears to be generally under control. There is likelihood of an increase, which would be indicative of community transmission. There is a clear peak in "factory link" cases at the time mass testing was instigated and a number of contacts identified.

In context, this data confirms the presence of COVID19 within the community at a background level. The peak in cases appears not necessarily due to an increase in actual cases. Due to mass testing, more cases were identified through actively seeking out contacts of site workers.

Additional slides identified cases against a map and compared the number of background cases and "factory link" cases across the wider geographical area. The slides compared these cases over two periods, 9-11 June (prior to mass testing units being set up) and 19-25 June. The comparison suggests it is highly likely that a number of individuals linked to site picked up COVID19 as a result of community transmission, which then brought it into the wider factory community.

Interpretation:

- Sharp rise in outbreak cases is due mainly to screening – not all were symptomatic
- New cases linked to the outbreak have fallen in recent days – also other cases
- Outbreak and non-outbreak clusters geographically overall
- Clusters mainly represent centres of population
- Non outbreak cases near outbreak cases fewer in early June than last week (but note the shorter time frame)
- No strong evidence of extensive community spread from outbreak cases

Household transmission is to be expected, which is why household isolation for 14 days is advised. We are currently not seeing a significant rise in community cases, which indicates that isolation and other control measures in place are working. CDSC colleagues are continuing to monitor clustered cases associated with the site.

■■■ noted an interest in any local exposure within the factory. It would be safe to assume that people working together (e.g. those working on a particular line) are likely to take breaks and visit communal areas together. Whilst there is no data to evidencing this, the "route of transmission principles" support this

■■■ raised a query in relation to family members, specifically children, of factory workers who are awaiting test results. These individuals continue to work daily within the community (supermarkets, retail etc.) and when challenged respond that that there has been no advice issued to them. ■■■ confirmed that testing and identification of positive cases is helpful to indicate the extent of the outbreak and transmission. Containing the outbreak is reliant on individuals following the guidance on isolation, social distancing and good hygiene.

■■■ had circulated the updated summary of hospitalisation report to the OCT prior to today's meeting. In summary:

- No directly linked workers have been hospitalised as yet
- A relatively small number (<10) of contacts have required admission.

Due to the small numbers of cases included in the report, GB emphasised the importance of confidentiality.

Thanks extended to CDSC colleagues for plotting the above data, as it is very helpful to put the outbreak into context.

5. **Testing and Sampling (GB)**

The OCT needs to make a decision today on the 84 individuals who have outstanding test results.

Wider discussion followed and the following points were noted:

- This is the first outbreak where the TTP process has been engaged for mass testing – learning from this has already been identified and captured to take forward
- A lot of time and effort has been spent chasing results of the 34 who we believe have been swabbed, with little result
- Control measure are now in place, consideration was given to sending a letter to those 34 with apologies and thanks for following isolation advice, and providing information on accessing testing (including home testing) if they become symptomatic
- ■■■ indicated a preference to offer the 34 an opportunity to be retested and suggested it would be beneficial if we had information on where the other 50 live (if a cluster is identified, a door-to-door approach could be considered dependant on available resource)
- ■■■ confirmed testing capacity is available (home test kits and CTU in Bangor)
- ■■■ noted that after looking at the data for the 50, 21 workers have been identified within Gwynedd (8 of whom also have an Anglesey address)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] highlighted that some of the 50 were not in work during the period of interest
- [REDACTED] confirmed the Health Board have mobilised capacity for testing but it has not been used, the DPH perspective is to test everybody, in order to be assurance that everybody has been offered / taken up test.
- However it was also debated how beneficial this would be at this stage in the outbreak
- Mass testing was being undertaken in context of the outbreak as a means of assessing the extent of spread within the population. This provided some understanding of the epidemiology of this outbreak
- Whilst it would be useful to test the outstanding 84 it will not impact on the management of the outbreak, as control measures are already in place and from the data provided, appear to be working
- [REDACTED] was supportive of contacting the 34 individuals who haven't had a result, as suggested above, as they are already willingly engaged with the process
- [REDACTED] was also in agreement that we have engaged as much as possible with the other 50
- [REDACTED] agreed this was a reasonable approach, but suggested it might be worth sending a final letter to the outstanding 50
- [REDACTED] also queried the impact if a proportion of those were positive and returned to work upon the factory reopening next Thursday. [REDACTED] confirmed that, as 14 days isolation will have been in place, this would not change the requirement on the plant to re-open.
- To clarify testing is helpful indication within an outbreak, but at this point will not change the primary control measures
- Additionally, individuals can be retested and remain positive, but this will not necessarily mean they are infectious
- [REDACTED] queried how this would be communicated to the company and [REDACTED] confirmed that we need to communicate through 2 Sisters (as the employer). Communication will be prepared and sent to the company, who will then approach their staff with the letter and offer of support
- [REDACTED] considered that the 50 staff may be working under HMO arrangements and writing to them again could be an opportunity to remind them of their obligations of enforcing social distancing, hand hygiene etc.

- Justification for not testing the 50 outstanding individuals will need to be very clear, as there is a strong media message that testing is considered the “way forward”, which will influence public opinion and confidence. All were in agreement that the messages are complex and wording needs to be considered closely

Discussion outcome

Re-testing to be offered to the 34 that came forward initially. Communication to be sent (via the employer) to the other 50 to reinforce messages around social distancing, isolation and hygiene and encourage them to access testing via the available routes.

Note: this decision was later superseded by information received by OCT that 2 Sisters were not allowing staff who had not been tested back to work – refer to section 7, page 8.

■ asked for OCT agreement following contact from a large employer on Anglesey (Stenna), who believe we should be pre-screening their staff and had concerns regarding asymptomatic staff. ■ has sent an initial response indicating asymptomatic testing is not the way forward at this stage and reinforcing messages around the TTP process. OCT were in agreement with this.

■ added that there are certain and specific circumstances where asymptomatic individuals would be tested (e.g. outbreak, care homes settings where large numbers of extremely vulnerable individuals could be at risk).

■ and ■ further clarified that testing will not stop transmission, the control measures will. This also draws on evidence from SAGE and Wales TAC.

6. Review of control measures (GB)

A cross agency meeting took place this morning with ■ representatives from the company, PHW, BCu HB, FSA, HSE, and LA colleagues. The company provided an update on measures already in place and enhanced actions being taken as result of the outbreak. Slides were circulated for information prior to this meeting and ■ highlighted this information is strictly confidential and not to be shared outside of the OCT.

The company had also emphasised that not all of the measures outlined are new; many were in place prior to the outbreak. On-site measures at the plant were discussed and will be broadened to include how to support the workforce and wider community (with the acknowledgement that the majority are

	<p>non-UK nationals and spend time together in close proximity, household/travel to and from work etc.). The main challenge is in reinforcing behavioural change, not just in workplace but also outside.</p> <p>A number of actions came out of the discussion and generally, colleagues were assured by the measures that have been put in place. No additional concerns were raised by members of OCT.</p> <p>OCT have requested sight of the company's communications and education material that they will be rolling out to staff. The company were also asked to produce an off-site plan, which links into existing guidance (including the government guidance that has been published today on food plants).</p> <p>The plant plans to re-open on Friday 3rd July, following deep cleaning and resampling inside the plant itself. The first few days will be spent on educating the workforce and reinforcing key messages.</p> <p>Whilst internal measures are of a high standard, the off-site plan needs to be prepared and implemented to provide reassurance to the community as the plant re-opens. [REDACTED] highlighted the strategic partnership approach to this and assured SCG have the outbreak off-site plan as a key agenda item for Monday's meeting.</p> <p>A further meeting is taking place this afternoon to discuss the Anglesey-specific communications that will be required to provide reassurance to local community and area officials. A number of queries are being received from the local community, and [REDACTED] has been working with deputy chairs of SCG, who have agreed messaging should be approved by the OCT.</p> <p>[REDACTED] added that the Comms media cell (under N.Wales SCG) are aware of the ongoing situation and will keep working with colleagues over the weekend.</p> <p>[REDACTED] provided approval for PHW Comms to produce proactive statements over the weekend if required.</p>	
7.	<p>Communications [REDACTED]</p> <p>There is sustained media interest in this outbreak, as well as Rowan Foods and [REDACTED] will prepare a summary of press enquiries to circulate to the OCT later today. Colleagues across the PHW Comms team are dealing with these as they are received. The move to a single daily update has worked well in providing clarity of data and coordinated messaging.</p>	

	<p>Social media messages reinforcing the control measures have been targeting the known community languages, as well as Welsh and English. These have been shared with SCG and LA colleagues.</p> <p>The management of the 50 untested workers could be difficult, as the possibility of community tension needs to be considered. ■ suggested that reactive lines would be better to address questions about specific numbers tested, rather than taking a proactive stance. This will be discuss further at this afternoon's meeting. These lines will be developed and reported in the 14:00 daily statement tomorrow.</p> <p>14:20 Update from 2 Sisters received</p> <p>2 Sisters have just communicated to Anglesey CBC that they will not allow staff back to work without being tested. This impacts earlier decisions made in this meeting around contacting the 84 individuals who do not have test results.</p> <p>■ suggested communication to the 50 who have not been tested would need to come directly from the company. Therefore, the OCT will provide them with lines to communicate directly to staff.</p> <p>Action: ■ to email ■ (cc ■) with a form of words, including details of the various methods to get tested.</p> <p>The remaining 34 who were contacted but unsure if they were swabbed will need to be sent a letter (from BCu HB /PHW jointly) of apology, inviting them to re-test, alongside advice on control measures (which would also help 2-SISTERS requirement to provide off-site advice to staff). Action: ■ to liaise with company regarding this, forward the list of 34 to ■ and coordinate a joint letter which will then require translation to encourage engagement.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>■ has sent ■ an email from the Romanian Embassy, which requests names of those Romanian workers and an offer of assistance. ■ confirmed that the details of staff names can only be shared with that individual's express permission. Therefore ■ will forward this communication on to the company with advice on how to access the support being offered. ■ also suggested the company could be prompted to share Embassy contact details on their noticeboard etc.</p> <p>■ requested a copy of the Embassy letter. Action: ■ to forward on.</p>	
9.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>13:30-14:30 Monday 29 June, unless required at short notice.</p>	

