

CABINET

16th March 2021

COVID 19 UPDATE AND APPROACH TO CONTINUED USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Strategic Aim:	All	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/170420	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr O Hemsley, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Rutland One Public Estate & Growth, Tourism & Economic Development, Resources (other than Finance)	
Contact Officer(s):	Phillip Horsfield – Deputy Director Corporate Governance (Monitoring Officer)	01572 758154 phorsfield@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the present position in Rutland in respect of COVID 19
2. Notes the continued applicability of the Civil Emergency Delegation.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 At the Cabinet meeting held on the 21st April 2020, it was agreed that Cabinet would keep under review the use of Emergency Powers.
- 1.2 At the meeting held on 15th September 2020 Cabinet requested continued reports to provide updates on the present COVID position.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS - COVID POSITION

- 2.1 This national lockdown was put in place from 6th January 2021. This was reported to Cabinet at the meeting on 12th January 2021 and 16th February 2021.
- 2.2 On the 22nd February 2021 the Prime Minister announced a Road Map out of the national lockdown.

- 2.3 After the first stage in March, further lifting of the rules will happen if certain conditions are met. They are that the:
 - 2.3.1 Vaccine Programme continues to go to plan;
 - 2.3.2 Evidence shows vaccines are reducing deaths and numbers requiring hospital treatment;
 - 2.3.3 Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospital admissions; and
 - 2.3.4 New variants do not change the risk of lifting restrictions.
- 2.4 The first stage will be in 2 parts with the first on March 8th:
 - 2.4.1 All schools and colleges will reopen
 - 2.4.2 University students can return for practical courses. There will be a review by the end of the Easter holidays for all other students
 - 2.4.3 Face coverings are recommended in class for secondary school students and also for parents and staff in primary schools
 - 2.4.4 Wrap around childcare can also return for vulnerable pupils and where it is needed for parents or carers to go to work, support groups or to seek medical care
 - 2.4.5 Two people from different households can meet outside for recreation, which can include "a coffee on a bench"
 - 2.4.6 One nominated person can visit care homes, but will need PPE, a lateral flow test and to "keep physical contact to a minimum"
- 2.5 Should these conditions be met then on the 29th March then the second part will be:
 - 2.5.1 People will be allowed to meet outside, either with one other household or within the "rule of six", including in private gardens
 - 2.5.2 The stay at home rule will end, but the government will urge people to stay local as much as possible.
 - 2.5.3 Outdoor sport facilities will reopen, including golf courses and tennis and basketball courts
 - 2.5.4 Formally organised outdoor sports can also restart
 - 2.5.5 Parents and children groups can return but are capped at 15 and must be outdoors. Indoor groups can take place for vulnerable children and where parents need the groups to go to work
 - 2.5.6 Weddings attended by up to six people can take place in any circumstances
- 2.6 The second stage will be no earlier than 12th April. This will mean that:
 - 2.6.1 All shops allowed to open

- 2.6.2 Restaurants and pub gardens will be allowed to serve customers sitting outdoors, including alcohol
- 2.6.3 Gyms and spas can reopen for individuals and households
- 2.6.4 Hairdressers, beauty salons and other "close contact services" can reopen
- 2.6.5 UK domestic holidays away from home permitted, with self-contained accommodation able to reopen for use by members of the same household
- 2.6.6 Children allowed to attend indoor play activities, with up to 15 parents or guardians allowed to join them
- 2.6.7 Zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas can reopen
- 2.6.8 Libraries and community centres can reopen
- 2.6.9 Weddings attended by up to 15 people can take place
- 2.7 Stage three will be no earlier than 17th May and will mean:
 - 2.7.1 People can meet in groups of up to 30 outdoors
 - 2.7.2 Six people or two households can meet indoors
 - 2.7.3 Pubs, restaurants and other hospitality venues can seat customers indoors
 - 2.7.4 Up to 30 people can meet to celebrate weddings or other life events, like christenings
 - 2.7.5 Remaining outdoor entertainment, such as outdoor theatres and cinemas can open
 - 2.7.6 Indoor entertainment such as museums, theatres, cinemas and children's play areas can open
 - 2.7.7 Performances and large events will be subject to limits though. For indoor events they can be at half capacity or 1,000 people, and outdoors they can be at half capacity or 4,000 people - whichever is lower. For large venues (at least 40,000 capacity) up to 10,000 will be allowed to attend
 - 2.7.8 Hotels, hostels and B&Bs can reopen
 - 2.7.9 International leisure travel will resume no earlier than 17 May
 - 2.7.10 Adult indoor group sports and exercise classes can start up again
- 2.8 No earlier than 21st June:
 - 2.8.1 All legal limits on social contact will be removed
 - 2.8.2 No legal limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and other life events. From April, the government will run pilots for events such as large weddings, festivals and work conferences. This will help to determine how measures such as enhanced testing might allow large groups to attend without

social distancing

- 2.8.3 Nightclubs will be allowed to reopen
- 2.9 There will be a minimum of five weeks between each step: four weeks for the data to reflect changes in restrictions; followed by seven days' notice of the restrictions to be eased.
- 2.10 It should be noted that the easing of restrictions will continue to depend on the support of the public in ensuring that transmission is kept to a minimum. The evidence in Rutland is that our communities are focussed on this with the reduction in the numbers through the Community in Ketton being an example of the key role we all have.
- 2.11 At the time of writing cases in Rutland stand at 240 per 100,000 of Population. There has been a significant impact on the number of cases in the County from within HMP Stocken. The Prison authorities are working hard to ensure that this is brought under control.
- 2.12 As in previous reports a small number of decisions continue to be made under emergency powers to enable a timely response. These relate predominantly to business grants, the vaccination centre and more recently the asymptomatic testing centre. The vast majority of decisions are being made through the Council's democratic decision making structures. The Decision Log is regularly made available to all Councillors to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of the emergency powers.
- 2.13 The Council continues working closely with partners to ensure that we support the delivery of the vaccination programme. Week commencing 22nd February the County was pleased to have vaccinated 10,000 people through our vaccination centre.
- 2.14 Further to the previous report and as verbally reported to Council. An asymptomatic testing centre to enable the provision of testing to people has also been established.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Through the Member briefings all Councillors have been kept abreast of the position in relation to the Pandemic.
- 3.2 Parish Council briefings were also activated weekly once again through the period of national lockdown and are now being delivered every 2 weeks.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The report provides an update on information regarding the actions taken and the Constitutional position.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 These are contained in the Report

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising from the report.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 An Equality Impact Questionnaire is not required for this report.

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

11 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That Cabinet note the current present position in Rutland regarding COVID 19 and the continued use of the Civil Emergency Delegation.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 There are no background papers for the report.

13 APPENDICES

13.1 None

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.