



NHS Lanarkshire Board meeting – August 2021

SBAR on Test & Protect Programme

The purpose of this SBAR is to update the Board of the progress being made in the Test & Protect Service in line with the requirements set out by Scottish Government.

SITUATION

NHS Lanarkshire Test & Protect (Covid 19 contact tracing) Service continues to provide service 8am-8pm, 365 days per year.

In Lanarkshire we have approximately 59085 case records contact traced on the case management system (CMS) from 15th July 2020 until 17th August 2021.

This report provides a brief update of changes.

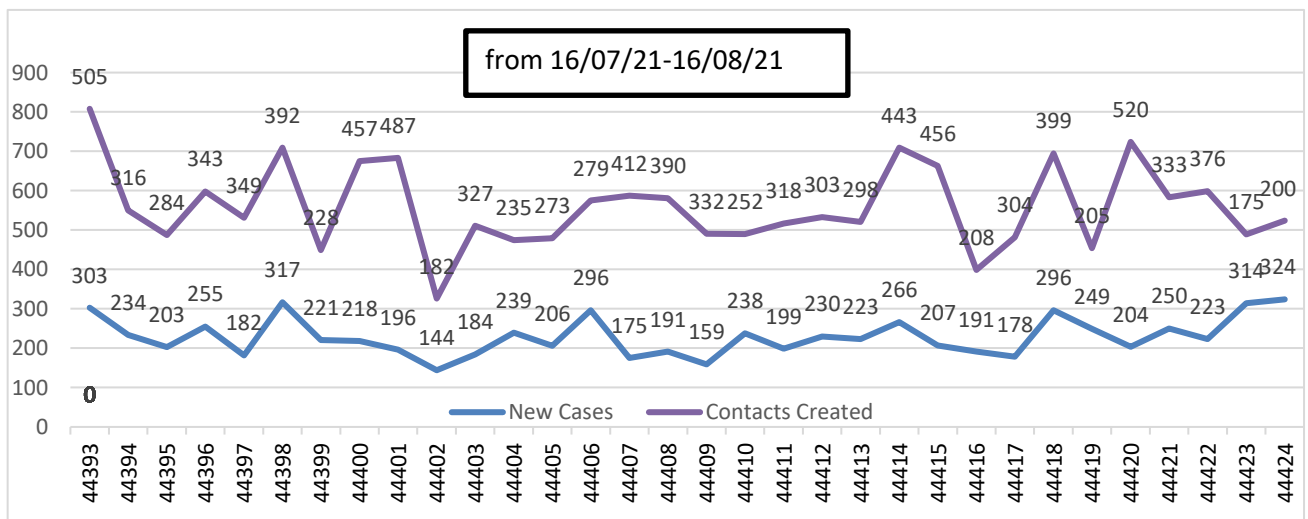
After the surge in positive cases connected to Euro activity, cases had started to plateau, but numbers remained high due to very few restrictions in place. Positive case numbers have risen recently at a higher rate than was initially forecast.

Appendix 1 shows last 30 days positive cases nationally and colour coded by health board. Lanarkshire had 365 cases on 17/08/2021.

Recently our Contact Tracers have been subject to increasing aggression from a small number of members of the public. To help address this, we have filmed a short “Zero Tolerance” video with our Communications colleagues which has been released on social media.

Positive Cases (past month)

The chart below shows the distribution of new NHS Lanarkshire positive cases and their contacts for the past month from 16/07/21 until 16/08/21.



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Staffing

After a successful recruitment process, internal and external, we are currently training 10 of our externally recruited Contact Tracing Practitioners in basic contact tracing before progressing to their investigative role. All successful internal candidates have progressed to training in investigative skills. The remaining CTPs will come on board on the 6th September 2021

Staff Wellbeing

Nationally CoTIN (Contact Tracing Implementation Network) are looking at how we can improve wellbeing of Contact Tracing teams throughout Scotland. The National Contact Centre (formerly NCTC) have introduced a wellbeing hub, Trace Space, which focuses on wellbeing of contact tracing staff. NHS Tayside have taken this forward as a project to include individual health boards nationally which we have expressed an interest in joining. Test and Protect have also linked with Spiritual Care to explore the option of tailored support for our staff which we hope will progress.

We still have steady attrition of contact tracing staff to permanent posts in their pre Covid roles which is to be expected. At times of tough restrictions, we were reassured that with limited opportunities to transmit Covid 19, surges would be controlled and brought into check, which they were.

With recent case numbers remaining high, we have been working collaboratively with the National Contact Centre, which has been encouraged and endorsed by Scot Gov to ensure cases are contacted as soon as practicably possible.

Case Interview and Case Completion Rates

The average case interview completion rate inside 24 hours of notification on CMS is a measure of how quickly a contact tracer manages to interview the case, identify contacts and any events/settings of interest. Monthly average rates are listed in the table below

September	74.0%
October	71.8%
November	91.2%
December	91.4%
January	95.2%
February	96.3%
Last 28 days, to March 18 th	96.7%
March 19 th until April 18 th inclusive	95.9%
April 19 th until May 18 th inclusive	95.5%
May 19 th until June 16 th inclusive	88.5%
June 17 th until July 15 th inclusive	54.9%*
July 16 th until August 16 th inclusive	92.7%

The average case completion rate inside 24 hours of notification on CMS is a measure of how quickly the wider team manage to complete all other investigative activity associated

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with a case before it can be closed off. This tends to be lower than the case interview rate as complexities still have to be investigated after the case interview. See below.

September	53.4%
October	56.3%
November	84.4%
December	86.0%
January	91.7%
February (to 18/02)	92.0%
Last 28 days, to March 18th	92.7%
March 19 th until April 18 th inclusive	75.9%
May 19 th until June 16 th inclusive	71.5%
June 17 th until July 15 th inclusive	47.5%*
July 16 th until August 16 th inclusive	77.5%

*Lower interview and case completion rates recorded due to the rapid escalation in positive cases at the beginning of July which created a backlog of active cases. This has now resolved.

ASSESSMENT

Future of the Test & Protect Workforce

The T&P team continue to strive to prepare for the immediate future and to improve effectiveness as well as progressing the transition from the current scripted case interview process to the more robust case investigation approach as and when appropriate. With CTPs in post, we are able to change and adapt procedures to reflect demand on the service having a more versatile team able to adapt to whatever level of investigation is required of them at any given time in response to changing case numbers.

There remain risks ahead as we try to learn to live with Covid 19 as safely as we can:

Imminent high risk –As services and businesses reopen, staff are leaving to take up permanent posts in pre Covid roles

Increased International and Domestic travel – Increased domestic and international travel = an increased risk of Variants Of Concern (VOCs) and different mutations taking hold and becoming more prevalent in our communities.

Pupils return to school –Although we have continued collaboration with our colleagues in education, changes in isolation requirement of school pupils and staff have left many uncertain of the future. We will continue to work with education colleagues to progress this change as seamlessly as possible

Easing of lockdown – Because of this, people are mixing more freely without taking social distancing measures. This results in an increase in case numbers and complexity of these cases with more contacts and routes of onward transmission as businesses return to normal. The general misconception seems to be that less restrictions = lower risk. This risk continues to grow.

Age and Rate of Infection

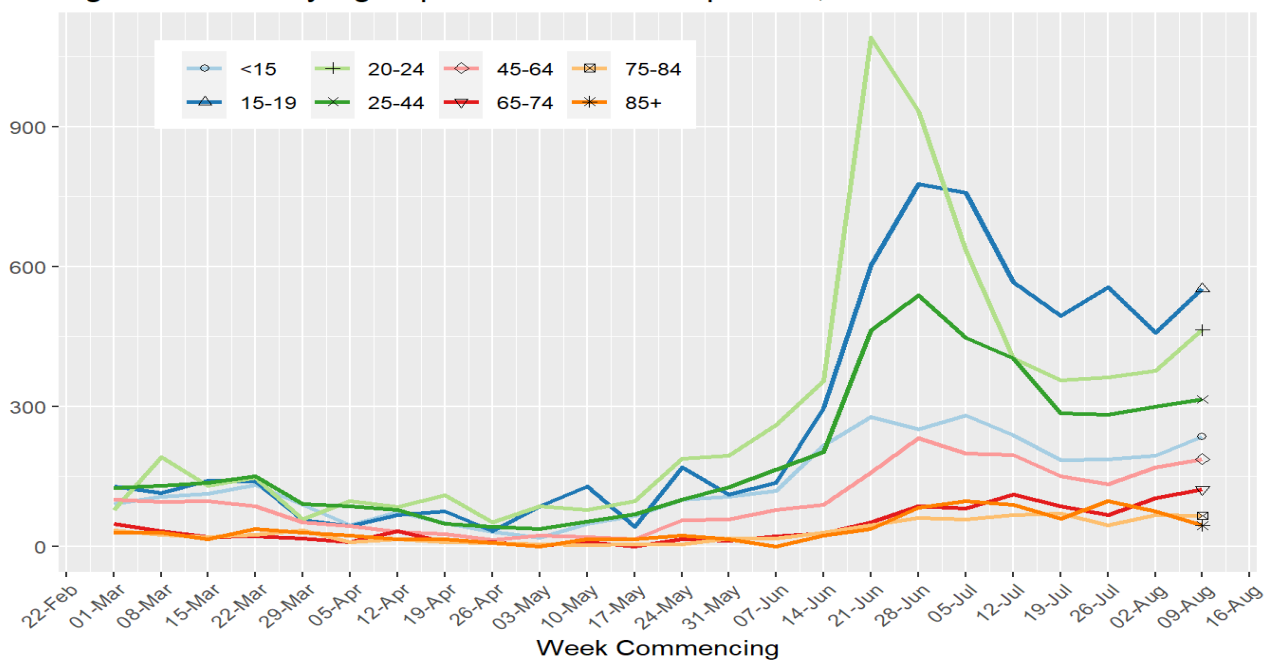
Covid 19 continues to affect people of all ages.

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It is imperative we maintain a robustly recruited, well-resourced Test & Protect Service capable of investigating and mitigating transmission.

The chart below shows the latest information on weekly cases per age group. In the last 7 days, Lanarkshire's case rate is 239 per 100,000. 8.3% of tests sampled returned a positive result and again case numbers are rising in Lanarkshire. The 15-19 age group continues to have the highest weekly rates; in the older age groups rates for age 65-74 are increasing.

Figure 14: Weekly Age Specific Covid Rates per 100,000



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- Note risk of further staff attrition
- Note, not only the highly fluctuating nature of demand on the service, but also the pace of that fluctuation
- Note the information provided which provides an overview of service delivery during the past month and a summary of the risks ahead
- Continue supporting the resourcing of the T&P service to maintain adequate capacity to deliver effective contact tracing across Lanarkshire

Sharon Falconer
 Test & Protect Service Manager
 17th August 2021

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Appendix 1

TP Index cases by created date - last 30 days

