

Dear colleague,

Following our previous communication on Friday 7 August, we wanted to update you on the current situation in Swindon regarding coronavirus.

Over the weekend, several new cases were confirmed, some of which were not directly linked to the original XPO outbreak, and this has pushed Swindon's coronavirus prevalence up to, as of Monday, 53.2 per 100,000 people.

At this stage, our public health colleagues remain confident the situation is under control, and that the new measures being taken this week should help to prevent further transmission.

Some of the measures being taken include:

- On-the-street engagement (including door knocking and letters to households in the most prevalent areas)
- Reinforcement of the guidance on social distancing, hygiene and testing through the media
- Reintroduction of the mobile testing unit at the County Ground football stadium
- Heightened community outreach with local religious leaders

Of course, it is accepted that these actions will not stop the spread overnight, but it is hoped that when combined with all other activity currently happening, the numbers should begin to slow.

At this moment in time, Swindon's situation is not yet in the same ballpark as areas in the country, such as Leicester and parts of Greater Manchester, that have had local lockdown restrictions imposed by central government.

However, we do need to work together to avoid reaching such a scenario.

As a GP working in the local area, we would ask for your support in reminding all patients that you see, be it in person, on the phone or by video call, of the very real and pressing need to:

- Continue following social distancing guidance
- Maintain robust hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water
- Self-isolate at the first sign of showing any of the symptoms linked to coronavirus
- Arrange a test for coronavirus at the first sign of showing any such symptoms
- Ensure every member of a household self-isolates when one person in the home develops symptoms

We appreciate this information is being continually relayed through the media, however we are all well aware of the increased impact it has when the ask comes a GP or healthcare professional.

These simple actions have the ability to make a difference, and will support our colleagues in the most affected areas of Swindon.

Thank you for your support and understanding during these challenging times.

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