



Media Release

Date: 21 October 2020

Update on positive COVID-19 cases

Following the announcement yesterday regarding the identification of a new case of COVID-19, the Public Health Contact Tracing Team is working hard to identify contacts of this case (index case). However, it is important to note that the index case had not travelled in the last 14 days. They have also adhered to all Public Health guidance.

Following the identification of the index case late on Monday, a second positive case was identified late yesterday (Tuesday). This second case was picked up through the contact tracing process from the index case. We are still working to establish the source of infection for the index case.

Dr Brink, Director of Public Health said:

‘The focus of the track and trace team is to identify the source of the infection in the index case and identify all potential contacts of this person, to prevent further onward spread in the community.

As it is unclear how this infection occurred, I think it is important to remind the community of the importance of sticking to the rules with regard to COVID-19. These include, for example, practicing good respiratory and hand hygiene, staying at home if you are unwell and adhering to any self-isolation and testing requirements after travel into the Bailiwick. When an individual chooses to take a risk for themselves, they are actually taking a risk on behalf of the community. This may, of course, have serious consequences.’

Yesterday the Sampling Team sampled 239 people through the testing tent or home visits. A total of 365 tests were performed in the laboratory (not all test samples come from the Sampling Tent - some samples are taken, for example, in Primary Care). Of the samples taken in the Sampling Tent: 107 of these were contacts or potential contacts of the case. The positive contact was identified through this process. It is important to note that due to our enhanced testing capacity we are able to extend our testing capacity beyond direct contacts only enabling us to analyse the current situation rapidly. By the end of the week we

should be able to provide an update on the total number of contacts identified and have a clearer understanding of these recent cases.

Islanders are reminded that they should be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and should call the clinical helpline on 01481 756938 or 01481 756969, to be put forward for a free COVID-19 test.

The symptoms that you should be aware of are:

- New and severe fatigue
- New muscle ache for no obvious reason
- Headache (sinus pain, pain around eyes)
- Loss of smell/taste
- Sore throat
- Fever (high temperature, rigors, chills, can't get warm)
- Shortness of breath, chest tightness
- Continuous new cough
- Children and Over 80s and 90s – loose stool, mild fever, not themselves with a cough presenting later

Before you call for assistance please bear in mind the following:

- If you are very unwell phone 999
- If you are concerned you are unwell and need to speak to someone about your symptoms call your GP
- If you have symptoms that are manageable at home which you are not worried about, call the helpline to discuss if you need a COVID test

You can contact primary care BEFORE you receive the results of your COVID-19 test but you must tell them you are waiting for a test/results when you call. They will make arrangements to see you in the clinics that have set aside for those with respiratory/potential COVID-19 symptoms.

As we move towards the winter it is timely to remind islanders that we all need to play our part in keeping the community healthy.

If you are ill, please don't go to work – and to managers and bosses, please support those who are poorly by, where possible, allowing employees to work from home. We know and understand that this isn't always possible, but if you can, then please do.

If you are a business, please keep hand sanitiser at your doors and on your counters. Please regularly wipe down counters and tables.

It's good practice to respect personal space and, where possible, to wash our hands and to stay home if we are ill.

Ends