

Media Release

Date: 22 October 2020

Update on positive COVID-19 cases

A further two positive cases of COVID-19 have been identified overnight. Both of these have been picked up through contact tracing of the index case.

We are aware of rumour and speculation online about the origin of this cluster of cases, and where the individuals who have tested positive work or have socialised. Whilst we are unable to confirm any details regarding the positive cases identified, we can confirm that all necessary public health requirements have been put in place.

Where someone is identified as a potential contact they are swabbed and asked to enter self-isolation for 14 days.

If someone is identified as contacts of a contact i.e. two steps removed from a positive case, you don't need to do anything and can carry on with your day as usual unless you hear from one of our Contact Tracers,

Public Health are still working to establish the source of infection for the index case but there are clear links between the 4 cases identified to date which is extremely helpful in seeking to track, trace and contain the spread of the virus.

Yesterday the Sampling Team sampled 188 people through the testing tent or home visits. Of the samples taken in the Sampling Tent: 45 of these were contacts or potential contacts of the cases that are currently being investigated. It is important to note that we have a very low threshold for testing potential contacts as, unlike in early 2020, we now have a greatly enhanced testing capacity. This helps us make a more rapid assessment of any community risk.

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