

2. DG update from Dr Andrew Goodall and an update from the Technical Advisory Group (TAC)

DG Update - Health and Social Care

- 2.1 AG began by noting the increasing demands on the NHS in Wales as a result in the increase in Covid-19 cases. There are just over 700 patients in hospital with Covid-19, this is a 50% increase in the last 7 days.
- 2.2 On numbers testing positive for Covid-19, the current figures are not unexpected. There have been some small improvements but most areas have seen number of those testing positive increasing. Some improvements but most areas still deteriorating. Infection and hospitalisation rates across the majority of Wales is not at the level set out in Tier 3 of the UK Government's approach, but many of our measures go beyond those proposed in Tier 3. The performance of the Lighthouse Laboratories has improved in recent days.
- 2.3 NHS plans to deal with an increase in Covid-19 cases are in place but pressures are being felt from hospital-based outbreaks. Six hospitals across Wales are reporting some level of Covid-19 outbreak. As community outbreaks increase, then the chance of patients, visitors or staff taking the virus into hospitals also increases.
- 2.4 If the number of hospital admissions for Covid-19 double within the next 3 to 4 weeks we will see a return to the numbers seen in the spring. AG posed the question on what Welsh Government's intention for the NHS over the winter months is, is it to maintain an emergency response or to keep going in the face of Covid-19.
- 2.5 The number of critical care beds occupied by Covid-19 patients is currently stable at between 25 to 30 beds. This reflects the nature of admissions but numbers are expected to increase in the coming weeks as the age profile of admissions to hospital changes.
- 2.6 AG to set out the position on Covid-19 in Wales at the Welsh Government's press conference on 14 October

Update on TAC.

- 2.7 RO began by noting that public health services are under similar pressures to the NHS particular given the number of Covid-19 clusters.
- 2.8 The proposal to impose a circuit or fire-break is aimed at slowing the exponential spread of Covid-19. The virus is behaving in a similar way to the first wave. The infection rate amongst young people is rising and will in time, find its way into the older population and into vulnerable settings.