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12th OCT COVID-19 2 SISTERS PLANT

Date of meeting: 03 July 2020

Time of meeting: 13:30-14:30

Venue for meeting: Skype meeting

Version: 0a DRAFT

Present:

	Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, PHW – OCT Chair	
	Lead Health Protection Nurse, PHW	
	Specialist Registrar, PHW	
	Communications Manager, PHW	
	Information Analyst, PHW	
	Clinical Scientist Lead for Zoonoses, GI & Emerging Infections, PHW	
	NHPC Representative, PHW	
	Senior Medical Officer, WG	
	Deputy Director Community Safety Division, WG	
	Environmental Health Manager, Anglesey CBC	
	Principal Environmental Health Officer, Anglesey CBC	
	Chief Public Protection Officer, Anglesey CBC	
	Managing Director (Ysbyty Gwynedd), BCUHB	
	Public Protection Manager, Gwynedd CBC	
	Executive Director of Public Health, BCUHB	
	Health & Safety Executive	

	Incident Officer, Food Standards Agency	
	North Wales Police	
	North Wales LRF Coordinator	
	Testing Lead for BCUHB	
	Primary Care Representative, BCUHB	
	Taking minutes	

Apologies:

	Head of Regulatory Services, Anglesey County Borough Council
	Consultant in Health Protection, PHW
	Healthcare Epidemiologist, PHW

1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies ■ welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes from previous meeting and action log Amendments to the minutes from the previous meeting (01/07/2020) to be received by end of Monday. All of the outstanding actions were closed – as either complete, or because they are being followed up in a wider context outside of this OCT. Refer to the updated action log for wider comments and additional actions agreed at today's meeting.	
3.	Epidemiological summary of cases As of today, 218 positive cases have been identified (■). The number of negative cases remains the same (306), though this may change as further results are given to the staff that have not yet come forward. ■ noted that the communications activity would be picked up later in the agenda but as OCT chair is content that all relevant actions relating to testing and sampling have been carried out and there are no plans to revisit this. ■ shared key highlights from the epidemiology report which was circulated prior to the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant changes to note: • Increase of ■ since the last epidemiology report was shared – total of 218 cases • 8 of these demonstrated a variety of symptoms 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “cluster map” has also been updated and displays cases that are directly linked to the plant • It was noted that the spike within the final graph does not demonstrate a rise in community cases at the time of the sampling exercise, indicating the outbreak was not widespread <p>■■■ queried the low number of cases indicated for BCU overall within the final graph and ■■■ explained that this data is taken from a data store extract. This only includes cases that are tested via hospitals and does not include data from the Lighthouse Labs, community testing etc.).</p> <p>Hospital admissions data was circulated at last OCT, ■■■ noted this would continue to be monitored and updated, but not brought to every OCT, as the numbers are relatively small.</p> <p>Contact Tracing of individuals is working as intended, no specific issues have been raised in relation to cases being contacted. ■■■ added that, though no numbers are available from the CRM today, there have been no concerns regarding backlog at either a local or regional level. Cases are being contact traced largely within the local authority. OCT took this as assurance that the process is working, with no significant delays or concerns.</p>	
4.	<p>Testing and Sampling (GB)</p> <p>■■■ confirmed that the all of the individuals who had not previously come forward for testing have now been contacted. This may lead to more cases being picked up over the next week or two.</p> <p>■■■ noted that there are still a number of employees (some who had been previously tested but had difficulty obtaining a result) presenting at the Bangor testing unit and queried whether these individuals should still be tested. Though additional testing at this point will not have any impact on the management of the outbreak, ■■■ advised that as an offer to test the staff had been extended, it should be followed through.</p>	
5.	<p>Review of control measures (■■■)</p> <p>The site has recommenced operations today and are taking a phased approach, with the aim to be in full production early next week. The workforce on site today are beginning to work through a re-education process and start back to work.</p> <p>■■■ noted there has been some media interest in the factory re-starting operations and the open letter from 2 Sisters was also circulated prior to OCT members in advance of today’s meeting.</p>	

■■■ highlighted a concern that was reported via Anglesey CBC from a member of the public. No contact details for the individual were taken, but they claimed to have seen factory workers yesterday morning (7:30am) on site not socially distancing. ■■■ has contacted the company who are looking through CCTV to investigate the claim. ■■■ stressed there may be no substance to this report but was highlighting to OCT for information.

■■■ added that during conversation with 2 Sisters on Wednesday afternoon there was assurance that there would be no cross over of staff and no individuals who are currently working on preparing the site will be present when the other staff return.

OCT agreed that this report is concerning, but would be within the factory's responsibility to address. It is unclear whether the Marshalls are present on site yet, as this measure will be an effective deterrent.

■■■ provided clarity and further updates from the company:

- Continue to encourage staff who have not already done so to come forward for testing
- A negative test result is NOT required for staff to return to work
- Following a positive test result, provided self-isolation advice has been adhered to, no repeat testing will be required
- Work has begun to identify where on production lines positive individuals are working – ■■■ has requested this information is made available to the OCT (and this will be shared with CDSC colleagues when available)

■■■ noted ■■■ members of staff who were late to present for testing and reside with other site workers have now been identified as positive. Discussion followed around household isolation guidance in this circumstance. ■■■ confirmed that this would come down to individual risk assessment. If the household has previously isolated for 14 days, little will be achieved by a further 14-day isolation period. There will be more need to understand the route of transmission within the household and any associated risks.

Concern regarding the complexity of this message was raised, as TTP will also be dealing with more general case contacts and there is a potential for the public to become confused. ■■■

further added the need to present a consistent public message across all outbreaks.

Following discussion, [REDACTED] agreed to pick up these instances on an individual basis, as and when identified. These will then be risk assessed with the relevant local authority. This adheres to the standard government guidance but also takes into account the individual circumstances of the cases. [REDACTED] confirmed that the government guidance also refers to symptoms (rather than positive cases), therefore if a further positive case is identified within an isolating household within the 14 days, the clock does not reset for others in the household.

OCT agreed this approach and mindful that this will set the precedent going forward, in this and other outbreaks.

More challenging scenarios may arise if a sample taken AFTER the 14-day isolation period tests positive. [REDACTED] noted that Health Protection colleagues would be able to provide advice as/when such cases arise.

[REDACTED] queried if 2 Sisters had shared the off-site plan. The company provided assurance on Wednesday that this was still being worked on. **Action: [REDACTED] to follow this up with 2 Sisters today and report back to OCT, as there needs to be evidence provided that this is in place.** [REDACTED]

6. Communications ([REDACTED])

There was some wider discussion around the messaging from this OCT – there is a much more positive position which [REDACTED] noted should now start to be communicated, rather than continuing to report numbers and testing. The majority of media requests continue to be largely focused on testing numbers.

[REDACTED] explained the media fixation with numbers is challenging to move away from, as there is a heightened national press interest in meat factory outbreaks across the UK. The OCT acknowledged this and the difficulty this presents in moving to a position where a more positive message around the strong control measures being successful, the site recommencing activity and presenting a more positive picture.

OCT considered this and agreed that the communication message should be reframed to reflect the more positive context of the 2 Sisters outbreak, which will hopefully reduce the press' focus on figures.

	<p>■ suggested this should be a consistent message that all partner agencies can reinforce jointly. Therefore, (as partner agencies may not have communications teams working over the weekend) that a "vanilla" update be include in today's daily statement and a more dynamic, positive message worked up over the weekend. This can then be shared with OCT and signed off for all agencies to share as a united front on Monday. All were in agreement with this approach. Action: ■ and ■ to draft a statement, to be shared with partner agencies, for OCT approval and publication on Monday.</p> <p>■ highlighted some concerns raised by the SCG (more focus around the Wrexham site) in relation to factors including modern day slavery, car sharing, shared living etc. The SCG are working with partner agencies across the region to promote a "stay safe, travel safe, work safe" message.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>■ encouraged all members of the OCT to provide feedback via the web based questionnaire, which is anonymous and will remain open until 17:00 on Monday.</p> <p>Following discussion around meeting frequency the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief meeting to take place 10:00 on Monday morning to sign off the statement and any exception updates from the weekend • A further meeting has been arranged for Thursday, following the HSE site visit. <p>■ noted the SCG require a written update by 15:00 Monday – ■ will pick up with ■ outside of this meeting.</p>	
8.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>06 July 2020 10:00-10:30</p>	