

COVID-19 Community Champions

Fortnightly briefing

Wednesday 9th June



Data and insight

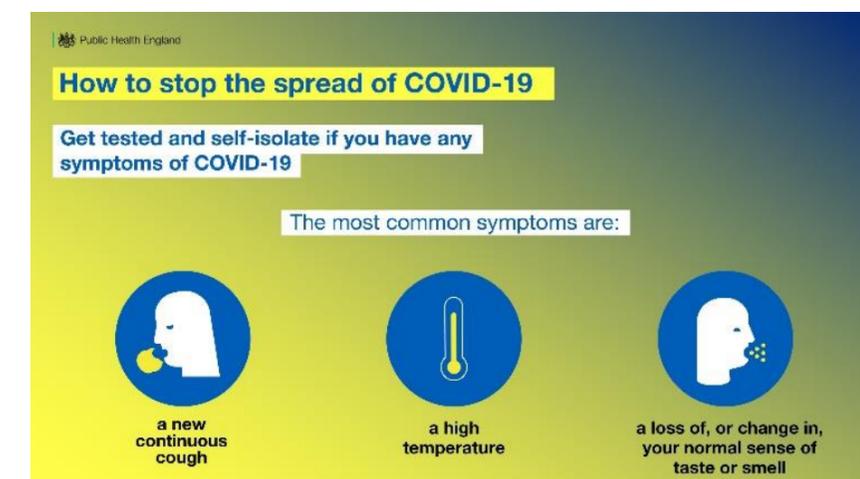
To view the latest data on COVID-19, please visit the Walsall Council website:

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19_information#WalsallData



Key messages – help keep case rates low

1. Wear a face covering as much as possible, unless exempt.
2. Wash your hands regularly and use hand sanitise when out.
3. Keep your contacts as low as possible.
4. Get vaccinated as soon as you meet the age, or other criteria.
5. Do regular symptom free COVID-19 tests.
6. Take a PCR test if you have COVID-19 symptoms.
7. Isolate with your household if you have symptoms / test positive.
8. Work from home if you can.
9. If meeting people indoors in peoples houses, open windows and doors and let fresh air in.
10. Give names of all contacts and places visited when asked by contact tracing teams.



Key messages – COVID-19 Vaccine

- Vaccination is now open to all those aged 25 and over, as well as anyone with a long-term health condition, people who work in health or social care, and carers.
- The NHS booking service had its busiest day yet when vaccinations opened up to those aged 25 and over, which is very encouraging, but there will still be many young people with questions or reservations about the vaccine. We appreciate your support in promoting the benefits of the vaccine to these young people.
- The vaccine is safe, effective, and the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from the harmful effects of the virus.
- The first dose offers good protection, but it is crucial to get the second dose after eight weeks to give you the maximum protection - please support us to promote second doses wherever possible.
- Vaccinations can be booked by calling 119 or visiting nhs.uk/covidvaccine.
- If you're in an eligible group, you can also attend the Saddlers Centre on a walk-in basis.
- Your local NHS and council are planning different ways to ensure people who are unable to travel to a vaccination centre have an equal opportunity to get the jab.

Updates and announcements

Resources

COVID-19 Infographics – Visual material created by medical professionals and volunteers to help summarise key points about COVID-19 in a variety of languages to get the right information, in an easy to understand format, to these communities.

<https://covid19graphics.info/>

GOV.UK – vaccination leaflets update

You can now download vaccination information as Easy Read format in different languages. There are also links to other formats, such as BSL.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources>

NHS Black Country and West Birmingham CCG – COVID-19 vaccination service

<https://blackcountrywestbirminghamcovidvaccine.co.uk/>

Walsall Council – COVID-19 information page

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19_information

Spotlight on groups

The MindKind Projects CIC

MindKind Community Champions supported the pop-up vaccination clinic at Birchills Mosque on Wednesday 2nd June.

The support included:

- Helping complete consent forms
- Supporting residents whose first language is not English
- Providing mental health support, particularly for those who are anxious about the process

They also engaged with over 100 residents about COVID-19 vaccination and completed questionnaires.



Spotlight on groups

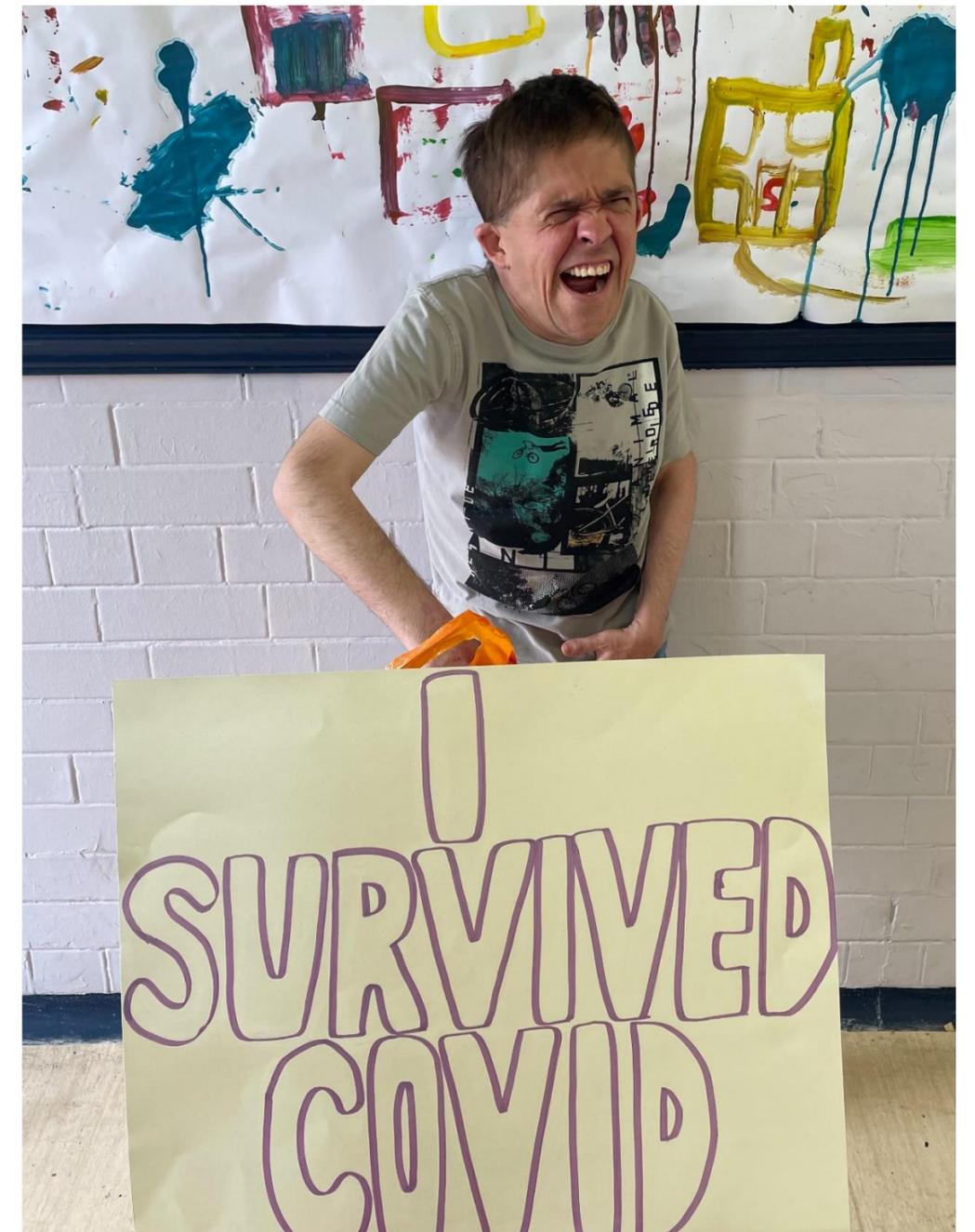
The Motivation Hub

The Motivation Hub contacted us with a positive story about one of their service users, Dom. This was shared across our social media channels.

Dom attends the hub and has severe learning disabilities and Autism.

In March 2020, Dom was diagnosed with COVID-19. He was and still is very poorly as a result of COVID. He is now relying on oxygen throughout the night and medication and nebulisers are part of his daily life.

Despite this, he still manages to smile and get on with life as best as his health will allow.



Group updates (1)

MULTI-KULTI

- Interested in pursuing the option of linking in with GPs.
- Has been liaising with Ryecroft Hub around providing an ID template for volunteers.
- A crucial part of Multi-Kulti's offer is the creation of an online survey as this has massive reach and also because there are presently no spaces/opportunities for face-to-face engagement due to COVID.
- Multi-Kulti will be contacting local schools and churches and will also be making use of FB Messenger for online contact.

ZEBRA ACCESS

- Currently working on setting up a video with translation into BSL.
- Have booked Saturday 17th July for an event in the town centre, where they will provide up-to-date information for people such as how to place test orders etc. There will be an interpreter in attendance.

MIDLAND MENCAP

- Midland Mencap are starting to complete questionnaires with citizens that currently access their services.
- Disability Week is taking place next and Midland Mencap have lots of volunteers keen to get involved and wanting to help re-create key messages. They see next week as the launch to the whole of Walsall, much wider audience than their current service users.
- A big part of their submission is the online activity and they will therefore be pursuing the online questionnaire option.

Group updates (2)

VERA GROUP

- VERA's main focus has been in identifying volunteers and they have found that many people from within both the Romanian and Russian-speaking communities are willing to get involved.
- There were people living a long time in the UK but not registered with GP. They supported them with registration and they got their first vaccination within a week.
- Also, VERA found that people are just busy getting on with their lives and don't give much thought to getting vaccinated. Just being able to have those conversations with people reminds them of the importance of having the vaccination. People were very positive.
- Supporting the community in general. They noticed the impact of this project straight away.
- Face-to-face and telephone catch-ups. Conversations with family members and people from the wider network helped to send out recent up-to-date messages around vaccination and testing.
- Many people are not aware that they are eligible to have symptom-free tests. We had to show how you can be tested and how the test works.

AINA HUB

- Zara gave an update:
 - Well underway with completing surveys with community members. Believe around 40-50 completed to date. Data from completed questionnaires is going to inform content and direction of their podcast.
 - Work in the coming weeks involves pop-up centres to give out information (e.g. in Saddlers Centre).

Group updates (3)

RYECROFT HUB

- Doing surveys in the local area
- Had a meeting with Foster Carers' Association and will be working with foster parents across Walsall and raising awareness through that route.
- Asked if it would be possible to do a walk-through for BSL on video for demonstrating symptom-free and vaccination clinic such as Saddlers? Ryecroft could do walk-through video if BSL interpreter were available. This could then be shared through various channels/communities.

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CENTRE

- Every day handing out surveys and flyers.
- Surprised that many clients have already taken up the vaccination, waiting for it or are very keen to take it up.
- In the process of translating one of the NHS flyers into seven languages and happy to share these with the groups when available.
- As a case study, had a conversation with one of their clients, an over-stayer – not registered with GP. Have managed to get them registered with a GP and help them with vaccine.

Group updates (4)

AISHA MOSQUE

- Working mainly on data collection – that will provide information on what is needed in the community and workshops can be organised and tailored around those needs.
- Now that vaccination is being offered to younger people, it is felt that this will be a big issue in the community.
- Working with Union of Muslim Organisations to secure a symptom-free testing site at the mosque. Just getting volunteers trained up on doing testing. This will take place soon.
- Vaccination bus – the symptom-free test site would be perfect for a visit of the bus.

Union of Muslim Organisations

- Have been working on gathering information from the surveys with a view to holding workshops to target the groups that need a push.
- Working with Public Health to provide symptom-free tests to encourage residents to test twice a week.