

## Community Select Committee – Wednesday, 2 December 2020

### Questions for the Director of Public Health

Cllr Claire Parris – (1) I would like to know how the data across the county is collated from our hospitals? (2) How is he working with the trusts regarding the message to the communities and how is this working?

Cllr Sarah Mead – (1) It was announced that Hertfordshire was getting walk in tests. What's happening there? When will this start?

(2) What advice would you give regarding Christmas?

(3) There are reports of various symptoms from Covid, so why are there only three symptoms listed as warranting a test? Why has a sore throat been removed from the symptoms list?

(4) It was reported in August that children were practically impervious to the virus and it they would not spread it. As it has transpired, children are catching and spreading the virus, as evident in the school environment. Whereas the spread is not as virulent as infecting entire 200+ member bubbles but infection is evident, how much was that a political statement verses a science based statement?

(5) What evidence is there that people have coronavirus for 14 days before displaying a symptom when typically symptoms appear within one week - how do you know when someone contracted the virus?

(6) Children could well pay a heavy cost as a result of the pandemic as their mental health suffered in lockdown, and is suffering as a result of not being able to distance at school and living with the uncertainty of isolating when their classmates contract the virus. Is it expected that children will suffer long term problems and if so, what is in place to help them?

(7) Given the heightened anxiety that people like teachers, shop workers, certain public and private sector workers are living through on a daily basis, how is Public Health preparing for the potential of a massive surge of mental health problems that may result? Is it expected that the problem will disappear in the near future following the vaccination programme?

(8) The public health campaign has had limited success in terms of their being increasing amounts of people evident in our town alone, that are not keeping distance neither wearing a mask, as well as people wearing a mask then not keeping distance. Why in your opinion, are people so confused and/or ignoring the advice? What could be done to improve public confidence in the advice?

(9) Thinking back to the start of the pandemic, when there was clear evidence from other countries as to what horror Covid was going to unleash, do you think that it would be wise to have introduce masks at the first sign of the virus in our country? Is this a lesson to learn for the future?

Cllr Margaret Notley - Is there a figure for the number of people in Hertfordshire not being able to access other medical treatments since the start of this pandemic?