

Dear Members and Officers,

I know that these figures below are in the public domain. For ease of reference and information please see the latest update below:

Coronavirus in the South West Peninsula

- 29 September to 4 October there were 539 laboratory confirmed cases in **Devon**. [53 in Torbay; 77 in Plymouth; 118 in Cornwall and c61,000 in England]

East Devon 41; Exeter 378; Mid Devon 15; North Devon 22; South Hams 14; Teignbridge 48; **Torrige 9**; West Devon 12. You can see that Torrige is well-placed by comparison.

Currently - confirmed cases per 100,000: **Devon 67.2**; Torbay 38.9; Plymouth 29.4; Cornwall 20.6; England 108. (However, if you take away incidences at Exeter University Devon's figures are much the same as elsewhere else in the peninsula).

- 31 January to 4 October there has been **2,241 confirmed cases** in **Devon** and **218 deaths**.

[Torbay 406 cases and 58 deaths; Plymouth 1,022 cases and 92 deaths; Cornwall 1,530 cases and 208 deaths; England 453,948 cases and 52,205 deaths]. **Please Note**: deaths only up to 25 September.

There were 3 deaths in the Peninsular (all in Plymouth) attributable to Coronavirus in the period 18 to 25 September. 215 recorded in England.

Please note that all deaths are not necessarily **by** Coronavirus, just that the person tested positive at some stage – at this time it is impossible to separate the cases without going back and scrutinising each death certificate. Later figures are markedly more accurate than earlier in the Pandemic.

Confirmed infection cases show a marked increase in Devon and smaller rises in Torbay and Plymouth. The Devon County Council figure includes a spate of positive cases at Exeter University (378), due to enhanced testing, making up some 70% of the Devon figure although there is **no evidence as yet of wider community transmission**.

With Autumn here and less people affected to date in the Peninsula, it does really highlight the importance of social distancing, hand hygiene and good local communication in keeping a potential second surge in check.

Still on health matters, I am delighted to see the commencement of the new recording system, 'MY CARE', which is the sharing of critical information digitally and the first programme in England to go live with a new comprehensive electronic patient record (EPR) system (provided by software experts, Epic) in both an acute hospital as well as in community-based health services. As a member of the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnership Digital Board I am thrilled to see this development coming to fruition. It is set to replace traditional paper/patient notes and mean that for the first time, every aspect of a person's care will be recorded in real time and available to many partners. Things like upcoming appointments, change of appointments, patient results, and the requesting of direct communications with care team members should become so much more fluid and convenient. MY CARE is the first programme to go live with Epic and officers and partners of the RD&E Hospital are to be commended on their efforts over the past two and a half years to bring this project to fruition.

My thanks, too, to all staff at our local schools and to those supporting their local schools in ensuring as safe as possible a return to educational settings. The work done here has been phenomenal and my thanks, in particular, go to leaders associated with our schools who, despite the huge pressures of late have done brilliantly in looking after staff and getting our youngsters formally educated again.

The pandemic, I know, has caused much uncertainty but I would like to assure one and all that staff across so many agencies are working incredibly hard to look after our communities. A bit like the above with our schools, many alternative arrangements have been put in place for those youngsters needing to travel by bus to school, socially-distanced, of course. Because of the re-deployment of staff there will be some areas of work for the County Council which will not always be the priority and I would ask all residents to be mindful of the, seemingly, ever-changing scenarios currently confronting so many of our organisations.

Please stay safe and be mindful of **'washing hands, covering face, and keeping space'**.

With every best wish, as always.
Barry