

This composite summary covers the months of January to March 2021 inclusive.

Although the second vaccine (Oxford / AstraZeneca) was being rolled out at the start of the New Year, which didn't need the high-chilling (to at least -70degC) and complicated handling of the Pfizer/BioNTech jab, the combination of pre-Christmas, Christmas and New Year relaxation in caution, both by government and the general public, meant that cases, deaths and hospitalisations were climbing alarmingly by New Year's Day. Therefore, soon into January, the UK government (applied to England only) introduced a return to Lockdown conditions – the third time since the pandemic had started back in March 2020. The other three nations also, though not in concert, enhanced and / or introduced similar measures to control the case numbers.

During January, as the vaccination programme gathered pace (a remarkable roll-out .. see below) and the Lockdown was enhanced (schools / colleges closed soon after opening for the spring term), critical numbers began to fall ... though slowly. The numbers of people with Covid-related illnesses in hospital reached a peak in the third week of January, way above any peak in 2020, but by the first of February, the downward 'curve' was a near straightline .. 33000 1st February, down to 21000 by 14th, and to 13000 by 28th February. By the 22nd March (end of this summary), that number had fallen to just 5400. Some 'flattening' of the downward curve, but the vaccination programme, plus enhanced hospital handling procedures has produce remarkable results.

Vaccinations have been the big success of this period: On the 27th December, just over 1 million (mn) people had had 1 dose of a single vaccine. By the end of January, with two vaccines on-stream, nearly 9.5 mn had been for a 'jab', and the numbers just kept on rising ... mid February, 15.3 mn and we hit the 30 mn mark on 27th March. By percentage, by the 27th March, 57% of the adult UK population had the first vaccine. The number receiving the second (booster) by that date was over 3.5 mn – the graph rising exponentially.

The vaccines were administered in all manner of places, from regular hospital settings (locally St. Leonard's was used) to places like churches, mosques, conference halls (the BIC was in play), temporary constructions etc.

For whatever reason, whether the success of the vaccine programme, or the Lockdown, or more likely a combination of both, by the 22nd February the PM was able to give a 'plan' of how to resume normal / near-normal life. There is a chart attached to the relevant week in the copies below, but the first critical date was that all schools/colleges should re-start on 8th March.

By the end of March, optimism was abounding – but of course it could all be thrown away (like last year) if people go berserk! And we've got the three Bank Holiday weekends to come along as well. [The situation in Europe is not so good ... they are imposing new lockdowns as we relax!]

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 3rd January)

- Who would have thought this time last year that we would start 2021 in the mess we're in! Even in summer of last year, it was (fairly) earnestly believed that things would be reasonably 'normal' by now: oh dear! But there is brighter news coming through now
- Announced Wednesday 30th December, that the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine has been formally approved for use. It will begin to be administered from the 4th January. This is likely to become the main vaccine that the majority of the UK population will have and is much easier to administer, transport, store etc., than the earlier Pfizer/BioNTech version (see earlier summaries). There are going to be 'hiccups' though in rolling it out – but within a month, it is thought that around 2 million doses will be administered.
- The latest county-wide CV19 summary (issued 29th December) doesn't make for easy reading

Here are the latest figures released today (29 December) for the Dorset Council area:

- *7 day case rates per 100,000: 120.2 (compared to 46.0 in last update on 18 December). Confirmed cases in last 7 days: 455 (compared to 174 in last update on 18 December)*
- *And as of 28th December, the number of cases within the West Moors council area is up to 30 ... a dramatic increase from the 3 or less only 3 weeks ago.*
- The trend in cases, deaths and hospital admissions generally across England is sharply upwards: much talk of significant changes in the restrictions (i.e., toughening) to be announced – due Wednesday 30th December
- And as noted above, West Moors / Dorset Council area in Tier 3 from midnight 30th/31st December; BCP in Tier 4; the latter area is really struggling with the case numbers.
- Schools etc., due to resume week beginning 4th January, will have a delayed start at Secondary level (including the upper forms at Middle school) though at present Primary / First schools will re-start as planned. It is intended that all schooling will be ‘back to normal’ from 18th January, but a lot of worry about high cases and rapid spread of the new variant via school-age children – this might adjust the plans above. In addition, it is planned to introduce full testing for all Secondary level pupils as soon as possible.
- Local police report that the New Year’s Eve was relatively quiet (apart from the extended fireworks of course) which means that local folk did obey the government request to ‘stay at home’!

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 10th January)

- PM announced evening Monday 4th: YET ANOTHER LOCKDOWN! (Lockdown III). The virus situation is assessed as being even more serious than it was in spring 2020.
- A ‘Stay at Home’ order is to be made law with effect Wednesday 6th; there are the usual exceptions regarding essential shopping, medical help/supply, exercise etc.
- All schools to close for general tuition (moving on-line) except for key workers’ children and vulnerable individuals. This is direct opposition to an announcement made only a few days previous that schools would remain open!
- No word as yet regarding the Memorial Hall* but as last year, all ‘non-essential’ shops will have to close, and cafes will have to provide delivery service only. The Library will return to ‘order and collect’ only. Buses though, at the moment, are expected to run as current timetable. [* announced via Facebook on 9th that Memorial Hall is now closed to all activity ... I’m not sure how well they re-opened after Christmas?] Pubs/Cafes can only do deliveries etc., but NOT alcohol.
- Pinehurst Community Church advertised that they are up and running with support available – they already have some donated food to distribute: St. Mary’s re-established their support network at the start of the November ‘mini-Lockdown’.
- The Dorset-wide summary published 8th January states ... “ In line with the situation across the wider South West region and England as a whole, we have seen a significant increase in our case numbers ... we are also seeing a rise in hospital admissions. “ Extracts from data summary:

7-day case rates (per 100k): BCP 607 (up from 389 on 4th January); Dorset 309 (up from 197 on 4th). For West Moors specifically, up to 3rd January, there were 36 people who tested positive, giving a ‘rate’ of 472, which is technically below the national average, but of course the national average has leapt up alarmingly! Only a few weeks before Christmas, West Moors had 3 or less cases for several weeks at a time, so the Christmas / New Year ‘moving about’ has had an effect.

- Some good news though: the roll-out of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, announced as authorised on the 30th December, has started nationwide, and on the 8th, it was announced that a third vaccine, the Moderna version, had been approved and would arrive ‘in the spring’.
- The government have announced that they would like the majority of those in age-groups at or above 70-year old to get the vaccine by 15th February – many logistical problems to be overcome of course!
- Roads seem busier than during the first (total) Lockdown back in March 2020 – the definition of ‘key workers’ has apparently been widened, but I suspect a good tranche of people are not obeying the rules or bending them considerably. People are getting very tired of the restrictions & there are many people (e.g. single-owner, self-employed) who are not getting any financial help from central government.
- There was an attempt to get a ‘Clap for Heroes’ going on Thursday (7th), but there’s been muted response. Many healthcare / NHS workers simply want people to obey the rules and do their bit!

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 17th January)

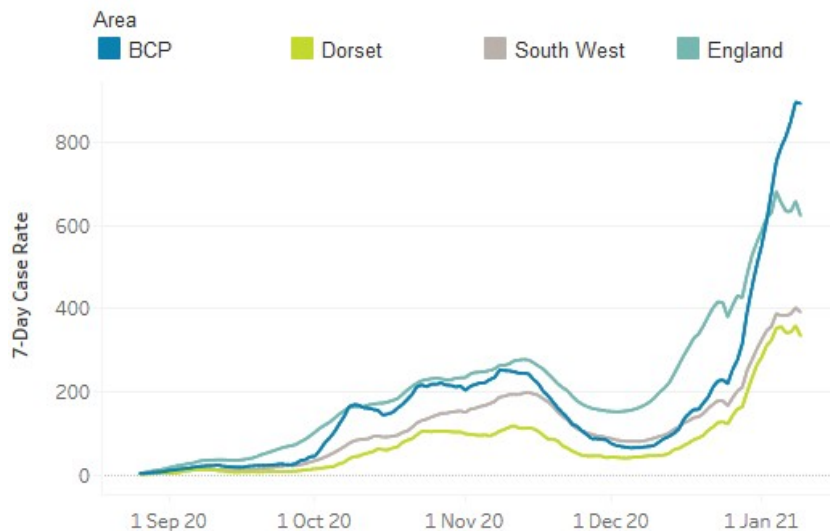
- Buses still relatively quiet, but roads fairly busy – not as quiet as many are wishing! A lot of talk that the ‘Lockdown’ measures should be ramped-up or the NHS will become seriously impacted – at present though, a case of getting people to obey current restrictions. As the week went on, I thought the messages were making an impact and there were (marginally) fewer people moving about.
- Ferndown Upper bus (F1) empty or nearly empty last week and this.
- Morebus announce that they intend to reduce some school-specific services from Monday 18th, and also move some ‘service’ buses to ‘school-holiday’ timetables: however not much of this impacts West Moors.
- Supermarkets intend to tighten-up on mask-wearing and numbers within store: round here, it hasn’t been a particular problem. Sainsbury’s beginning to check numbers going in and out.
- Broadly, the situation across the UK is pretty dire: but there are tentative signs of hope. First, the vaccine programme is gathering momentum and roughly 3.8 mn people have had at least one inoculation by the end of the week. Also, the case numbers on a national level appear to have ‘crested’ the peak and have been falling somewhat. On the downside, hospital admissions and deaths are still rising – but these are ‘lagging’ indicators and may reflect what happened over Christmas & New Year. For Dorset and BCP, then the summary here is worth copying

“ Cases have risen again across the county over the last week, although the increase continues to be steeper in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) area. Case rates in the BCP Council area are now significantly higher than both the South West region and England average rates.

Hospital admissions have continued to increase. The situation across Dorset is not like anything we have seen before and the most serious our local NHS services have faced. ”

The quoted 7-day case rates are ... BCP=891 (up from 607 on 8th January and 389 on the 4th) and Dorset=333 (up from 309 on 8th January and 197 on the 4th). West Moors, which was as high as 33 cases a few days ago, is now coming down into the high-20s, and its ‘case-rate’ is below the national average: however we are surrounded by areas with much-above average infection rates. The 7-day case-rates are shown graphically below. BCP is now amongst the highest (i.e., most

affected) areas in the entire UK! Getting people to stop moving about is of the highest priority. Over the weekend there were reports of large numbers of people gathering on the beaches!



Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 24th January 2021)

- Morebus announce reduction in services effective Sunday 24th January: includes X6 NOT running beyond Ringwood and the only 'Sch' service returning to 'Nsch' pattern.
- St. Mary the Virgin announced (20th) that they would close for 'physical' services with immediate effect, despite being allowed (with restrictions) to continue. That makes only St. Anthony's (RC) church still open for worship: Pinehurst Community Church didn't open at all after March last year, and St. Martin's URC only re-opened briefly late last year. The case numbers, hospital admissions and death rates are still stubbornly high.
- The local virus summary issued 22nd: shows that for both local and national cases are falling, but only slowly. BCP in particular is having a real problem – their case-rate (per 100k) is now 794 [down from 891 last week] – these figures are way above the national average of 484; Dorset Council is doing better ... case-rate=310 [was 333 last week]. West Moors is still around the low/mid 20s (for actual cases) which is below the national average. However, set against all that, the hospital numbers are UP; there have been reports that patients have been sent to Exeter because local services are in danger of being overwhelmed. We're not out of the woods yet.
- On a positive note, vaccinations continue apace. Nationally, over 6 million have had at least once inoculation.
- Pinehurst Community Church note that they have been helping people over the recent weeks – mainly with essential foods. They are also taking donations by having a box outside the front door where anyone can drop food items off for supply.
- And so another week slips by: in the depth of 'winter blues' at the moment – there is a weariness in the nation; lots of caution that even with the vaccine roll-out, things will only slowly improve – and in some respects may even get worse, or more restricted. Schools, for example, might not fully re-open until after Easter.
- St. Martin's URC are re-starting their Discovery Group presentations on the 1st February via Zoom.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 31st January 2021)

- Roads have drifted back to being quite busy – even during times when you’d think there would be little traffic – especially allowing for the fact that the schools are only dealing with ‘essential’ workers’ children – particularly noticeable on Sunday. There is a lot more ignoring of the Lockdown this time around than was the case in spring last year. With talk about being cautious about relaxing restrictions – frankly the restrictions are creaking!
- Latest situation report: 29th January ... “ Local infection rates have fallen again this week but they are not falling quickly and are still at high levels. The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council area now has the 15th highest infection rate out of all local authorities in the UK. The BCP rate (592.4) is still a lot higher than the average rates for England (373.2) and the South West (247.9). The Dorset Council rate (264.5) is also higher than the South West average.
- Hospital admissions have levelled off but local NHS services are still under significant pressure and we are also seeing outbreaks in care settings across Dorset. Sadly these factors mean COVID-related deaths continue to rise.”
- West Moors-specific cases were above the England average, but as of Saturday, have fallen below ... an encouraging trend.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 7th February 2021)

- Captain Sir Tom Moore, who raised many millions of pounds during the first ‘lockdown’ last year (by walking around his care-home garden using a ‘walker’), and who was 99 then, died early in the week. Many tributes to a man who symbolised the fortitude of the nation in difficult times.
- The vaccination roll-out, which has been under-way since before Christmas, is picking up pace and nearly 12 million people (*roughly 23% / or nearly 1 in 4 of the adult population*) have now had at least one ‘jab’. Locally, the St. Leonards Hospital site is being used by several local GP practices – very busy when my wife and I used it on Tuesday last!
- A slowly improving situation: 7-day case-rates for Dorset up to Friday were 207 (265 previously), and CV19 patients in hospital beds were 386 (537 previously). However, we’re yet to return to the relatively low-levels of last autumn. West Moors has been below (just) the national average for case-rates.
- Roads seem to be very busy for a ‘Lockdown’ and movement of people and vehicles is certainly greater than the first national lockdown last year. A lot more ‘bending of the rules’ going on. Evenings/Nights quiet though with pubs, restaurants etc., still firmly closed.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 14th February 2021)

- Vaccinations: on a UK-wide scale, as of 14th February, just over 15mn people had had at least one inoculation. For Dorset specifically, up to the 7th February, 201,211 doses had been administered. The roll-out has been deemed a great success, though always with caution regarding how the vaccines will deal with variants emerging.
- Latest Coronavirus statement issued by Public Health Dorset “ Confirmed cases and hospitalisations have continued to fall across Dorset, which shows that the national lockdown restrictions are having an impact. Whilst this is good news, it’s important to remember that these figures have been falling from a very high level so there is still a way to go. For comparison, we still have higher case rates than when we went into the second lockdown in November. The number of COVID-19 patients in (Dorset) hospitals has fallen to 269 from a peak of 552 on 19 January. These are the 7 day case rates per 100,000: BCP: 250.2 (compared to 369.8 in last update on 5 February) Dorset: 146.6 (compared to 207.4 in last update on 5 February).”

- Although I might have missed a mention, the official weekly summary of Covid-19 cases for Dorset hasn't mentioned ANY cases being reported from West Moors schools; the schools are open for children of 'key workers' and those designated 'vulnerable'. Quite remarkable really, as many schools round about us have had at least one case in recent weeks.
- For West Moors specifically, up to the 9th February (latest data available), we are running just above the national average at a case-rate of 157. As you can see, technically this is above the Dorset rate (just) but with a few days lag. I suspect next week's figures will show and improvement.
- Pinehurst Community Church continue to help those that require it and are accepting donations of food. Their foodbank (just inside the main entrance) is open Monday – Friday, 1pm to 5pm and accepting donations.
- Biting cold/gusty wind for much of the week, though with little snow. Plenty of people taking their legal constitutional!
- Scams are rife with many elderly and/or isolated people falling victim to fraud. Probably a partially hidden problem, the full extent of which won't be known until all this is over.
- Much speculation now about a major announcement on the 22nd February from the UK government (though would only apply to England) that a plan would come forth to begin the 'unlocking' of the 'lockdown'. Schools probably the first to return sometime in March, with other venues coming back (e.g., non-essential shops) in April. But much caution as well.
- Broadly speaking, not much has changed in West Moors for a few weeks now; roads fairly quiet, especially after dark (no pubs etc., open) and the buses are not being used much. Shopping is not such a bind as regards numbers. Mind you, the weather (see above) has been a factor.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 21st February 2021)

- Latest figures: as of the weekly Dorset (with BCP) update dated 19th February, the figures show a continued downward trend. For Dorset specifically (i.e., excluding BCP) the case rate has fallen to 92 (down from 147 a week ago), but this only puts us back to where we were just before Christmas. For West Moors, the case-rate was 118 (number of actual cases = 9) so a bit higher than the county average. I wonder if the outbreaks are due to Care Homes? All the figures, both nationally, regionally and locally, are going down – and there is much optimism, but we are still above the position we were in during the first wave spring/early summer last year: problems for the decision makers!
- Waiting for Monday (22nd) when the government will announce some sort of plan to release the 'Lockdown': the speculation is that schools, either partially or fully, will re-open early March, and possibly non-essential shops, outdoor sports / activities etc., around or after Easter.
- Local situation – broadly unchanged ... dramatic change from biting cold wind last week to mild/wet! The cold weather last week, and the rain this might have helped stop people 'casually' moving about?
- Vaccinations proceed apace: as of Sunday's summary, 17.6mn people have had at least one inoculation: based on an estimate of UK population of ages 16+, this mean roughly 1 in 3 'adults' have had at least one injection.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 28th February 2021)

- Announcement Monday 22nd: PM outlines 'route map' out of Lockdown, with a tentative total exit from all restrictions June 21st. Thought to be highly ambitious. In the shorter term

- All schools / FE colleges to open fully on March 8th; testing regime in place – in school initially, then by parents/carers thereafter. Many schools have of course been ‘open’ in recent weeks for ‘key workers’/vulnerable children – perhaps rather more than was anticipated – St. Mary’s for instance reported 80-90 pupils in at one point, and I think their total capacity is around 130! The school has been trying to restrict attendance to *really really* essential workers’ children.
- From 29th March, outdoor gatherings of a limited nature allowed – either 6 people or 2 households. Outdoor sports reopen – and so presumably Fryer Field facilities back in use. Also from this date, organised adult/children’s ‘grass roots’ sport restarts.
- Other ‘earliest’ dates: 12th April ... non essential retail, hairdressers, public buildings and many more. See the attached diagram (below) which gives more information.
- Slight increase in activity on roads, buses etc., and also in shops: nothing dramatic, but suspect that the good uptake in vaccines, coupled to the better weather (very fine weekend just gone – near full sunshine), is tempting people to go ‘out and about’, whether ‘legally’ or not is a moot point!
- Here is the latest (26th February) summary as published by Public Health Dorset:

“ Case rates across the county have continued to fall during the lockdown. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council's case rate (114.1 per 100,000) is now just below the England average of 118.3. However both BCP and Dorset Council (77.7) case rates remain above the average for the South West (70.2). In line with the reduction in case rates, COVID-related hospitalisations and deaths across the county have also decreased. Over a quarter of a million people in Dorset have now received a COVID-19 vaccine. This is great news and we'd like to thank everyone involved in the rollout of the vaccination programme. However, we must remain vigilant and continue to follow the rules - even if you've had the vaccine - to avoid an increase in cases. “

- As regards the vaccination roll-out, as of Sunday 28th, a total of 20 089 551 had received at least one inoculation (nearly 800 000 second dose), regarded as a remarkable achievement considering the programme only started in early December with just one source of supply. This means that the majority in the 70+ age groups, plus other ‘vulnerable’ clusters have now been protected, and it was announced that it is intended to include the 40+ upwards in the programme as soon as possible – possibly as early as late April or sometime in May.
- Critical regulation change dates this period: None.
- Critical regulation changes to come ... All schools / FE Colleges to re-open fully 8th March (NB: schools have been ‘open’ for children of ‘key workers’ & vulnerable categories throughout.)
- From 29th March: outdoor gatherings with restrictions, outdoor/amateur sports etc.

ENGLAND LOCKDOWN EXIT PLAN:

Stage One

From 8 March:

All schools will open with outdoor after-school sports and activities allowed. Recreation in an outdoor public spaces - such as a park - will be allowed between two people, meaning they would be allowed to sit down for a coffee, drink or picnic.

From 29 March:

Outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households will be allowed. It is understood this will include gatherings in private gardens. Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis or basketball courts will reopen and organised adult and children's sport, such as grassroots football, will also return.

Stage Two

From 12 April would see major parts of the economy permitted to reopen:

- Non-essential retail opens, hairdressers and public buildings like libraries and museums
- Outdoor settings like alcohol takeaways, beer gardens, zoos and theme parks
- Indoor leisure like swimming pools and gyms
- Self-contained holiday accommodation, such as self-catering lets and camp sites

But wider social contact rules will continue to apply in all settings - meaning no indoor mixing between different households will be allowed. Funerals continue with up to 30 people, and weddings with up to 15 guests.

Stage Three

From 17 May - if the data allows - the "rule of six" will be abolished for outdoor gatherings, replaced with a limit of 30 people. Two households can mix indoors - with the rule of six applied in hospitality settings like pubs. Cinemas, hotels, performances and sporting events reopen - though social distancing remains. Up to 10,000 spectators can attend the very largest outdoor seated venues like football stadiums. Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions, funerals and wakes.

Stage Four

From 21 June all legal limits on social contact potentially removed, with the final closed sectors of the economy reopened - such as nightclubs. The government hopes that - from this date - restrictions on weddings and funerals will also be abolished.

Steps above require four tests on vaccines, infection rates and new coronavirus variants to be met at each stage.

Relaxation plan announced on Monday 22nd February.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 7th March 2021)

- People are getting out and about rather more than 'total lockdown' might suggest: Friday for instance in West Moors was little different to a 'normal' Friday, despite several retail outlets still being closed. Roads busy during day, but things quiet down dramatically in the evening – there's nowhere to go!
- Latest figures from Dorset & BCP: figures in 7 days to 5th March: Dorset case-rate = 51 (was 78), BCP = 63 (was 114). Good, steady progress, but looking at the graphs (not shown this update) we're still nowhere near the lows of late autumn. West Moors is struggling, but improved markedly over the weekend to well below-normal case-rate.
- Vaccine numbers/progress etc. As of Sunday 7th, 22.2 mn people had got their first vaccine, with 1.1 mn receiving the second / booster jab. It was also announced today that those aged 56 to 59 would be called for vaccine soon.
- Critical regulation change dates this period: None.
- Critical regulation changes to come ... All schools / FE Colleges to re-open fully **Monday 8th March** (NB: schools have been 'open' for children of 'key workers' & vulnerable categories throughout.) However testing, both within school and outside it, will be in place particularly for senior school facilities.
- From **29th March**: outdoor gatherings with restrictions, outdoor/amateur sports etc. From this date, all Town Council owned sports facilities will become available again.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 14th March 2021)

- A full 52-week year of these bulletins! Hasn't it been fun!
- Latest vaccination figures (to Sunday 14th) ... 24.2 mn first shot, 1.6 mn second shot. There are some rumblings that supply issues may slow the rapid growth of the rollout, but it was always expected, and the target of all 40+ being offered at least one vaccination by Easter is being actively pursued (apparently the target for ALL adults to get at least one jab by early June is still 'do-able').
- Critical regulation change dates this period: All schools / FE Colleges to re-open fully **Monday 8th March** (NB: schools have been 'open' for children of 'key workers' & vulnerable categories throughout.) However testing ('rapid' lateral flow tests), both within school (in the first week) and outside it (voluntary at home), will be in place particularly for senior school facilities (Yr7 upwards). Mask wearing within school bounds, particularly in classrooms is now strongly advised. Other important changes from this date: after-school sports/activities can resume ... recreation in outdoor public spaces now allowed – such as a park – between two people. This means they can now meet for a coffee/tea, drink or picnic. Also important for West Moors (with five care homes), residents can now see one named visitor – with full safety controls in place.
- Dorset/BCP figures: continued improvement ... the following is taken from the Friday (12th) briefing for Dorset:

“ We have seen COVID case rates, hospitalisations and deaths continue to decrease across the county over the last week. Case rates for Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council are both around the South West average and below the England average This week we saw the return to school and college for all pupils in Dorset. Many school pupils, staff and their families are now taking part in lateral flow testing to identify and isolate any asymptomatic cases and their contacts to help break chains of transmission.

Summary of the most recent data:

7 day case rates per 100,000

BCP: 32.1 (compared to 63.0 in last update on 5 March)

Dorset: 33.3 (compared to 51.3 in last update on 5 March)

Confirmed cases in last 7 days

BCP: 127 (compared to 249 in last update on 5 March)

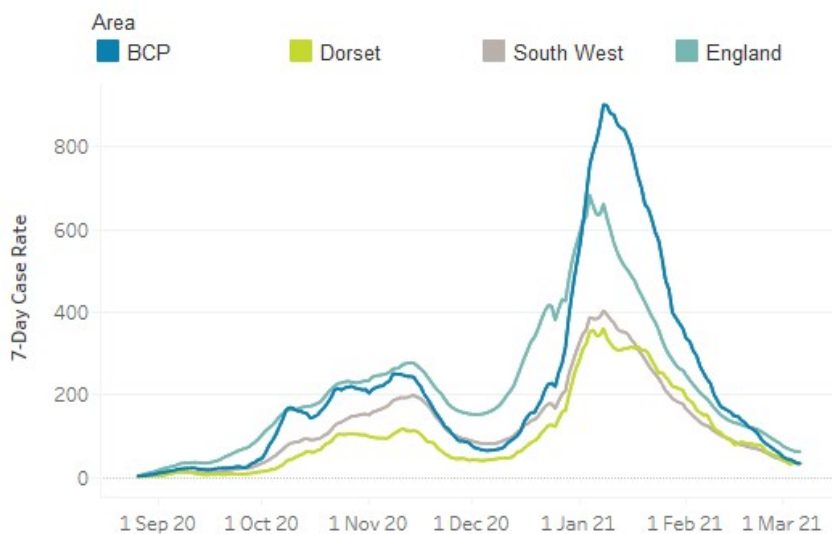
Dorset: 126 (compared to 194 in last update on 5 March)

Current COVID-19 patients in hospital beds in Dorset: 33 (compared to 68 in last update on 5 March)

[the latest graphical representation of the situation is added at the end of this document.]

- West Moors figures: within the local council boundary, then at long last we are in the lowest (“ suppressed “) category (0-2 cases) after being quite high for several weeks. The last time we were in this lowest category was in the first-half of December. The situation is also improving rapidly and markedly in council areas around us which is good news.
- Roads busy! Frankly, apart from the quiet roads in the evening, you wouldn't know there was a 'Lockdown'. Roads particularly busy due to schools back ' on stream '.
- Pinehurst CC? No advice that they are in demand ... I suspect that things are fairly relaxed with the usual stores (Spar, Tesco, McColl, Sainsbury's etc.) operating normally; when I looked in on Saturday with some donations, there seemed to be plenty of supply on the table.
- Critical regulation changes to come: From **29th March**: outdoor gatherings with restrictions, outdoor/amateur sports etc. From this date, all Town Council owned sports facilities will become available again.

- From **12th April**: more changes (full list to be entered but includes non-essential shops/retail, hairdressers etc.) provided improvement continues (following the opening of the schools).



Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 21st March 2021)

- The Verwood Hardware store, an offshoot of the Verwood (main) outfit, closed down at the end of last week – having only opened up early summer last year; great shame but they had opened up when restrictions on getting out and about etc., were severe. Always going to be difficult with parking not reliable etc., and people not being encouraged to come out of doors!
- Morebus announced on Friday that they will restore the majority of their services to those in force last September (in other words nearly back to pre-pandemic levels) from **Sunday 4th April**. The most important change for us is that the X6 will resume running-through to Bournemouth (Hospital & Town) on the majority of journeys.
- Pinehurst Community Church announced on Friday that they will cease the ‘Foodbank’ operation on **1st April**. When I looked in a few days ago (with donation), the stock level didn’t seem to have changed much, so the demand is probably very small. They will respond to emergency requests though.
- Update on Coronavirus figures for Dorset & BCP:
- “ COVID-19 case rates across Dorset have started to level off this week, in line with the national picture. However the decrease in COVID-related hospital admissions and deaths has continued. Over 370,000 doses of the COVID vaccine have been administered across the county.
- Summary of the most recent data: 7 day case rates per 100,000: BCP: 33.4 (compared to 32.1 in last update on 12 March); Dorset: 29.3 (compared to 33.3 in last update on 12 March); Confirmed cases in last 7 days BCP: 132 (compared to 127 in last update on 12 March); Dorset: 111 (compared to 126 in last update on 12 March): Current COVID-19 patients in hospital beds in Dorset: 21 (compared to 33 in last update on 12 March).
- For West Moors, as of 16th March, the case numbers = 0-2 which is regarded as ‘suppressed’. We are doing reasonably well, but as noted above, there is a ‘levelling-off’ of the improvement. It remains to be seen just how the combination of the schools/colleges having been back for a couple of weeks and the expected Easter moving-about will affect the figures.

- Total first-dose vaccinations across the UK= 27 630 970, and second-dose= 2 228 772. As regards the first-dose, this means that just over half of the adult population has been inoculated which is regarded as a great achievement.
- Critical regulation changes to come: From **29th March**: outdoor gatherings with restrictions, outdoor/amateur sports etc. From this date, all Town Council owned sports facilities will become available again.
- From **12th April**: more changes (full list to be entered but includes non-essential shops/retail, hairdressers etc.) provided improvement continues (following the opening of the schools).

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days (to Sunday 28th March 2021)

- Tuesday 23rd: this was declared as a National Day of Reflection on the past (calendar) year; it was on the 23rd March last year that the UK government put the whole country into a near-total 'Lockdown'. The initiative was sponsored by Marie Curie, though with only a few days notice: there was a national one minute silence at Noon, and people were asked to stand on their doorsteps at 8.00 pm in the evening with a torch, candle or similar to remember all those affected. I'm not sure how much observance there was locally.
- St. Mary the Virgin parish church announced that they will re-open for 'in person' services from Palm Sunday/28th March. As last year, there will be a booking system in place with limited numbers, spacing, mask wearing etc. St. Anthony's RC church has been open throughout (they intend using the attached hall as an overflow church over Easter). PCC and St. Martin's are still closed for personal worship – all online.
- Pinehurst Community Church announced that they will stand-down their food bank with effect **1st April**.
- Summary of local figures: “ COVID-19 case rates across Dorset have remained at similar levels this week, with a slight fall in the case rate for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council area. Case rates for both council areas are lower than the England average and around the same as the South West average. COVID-related hospital admissions and deaths continue to fall. Over 425,000 doses of the COVID vaccine have now been given across the county. “ (Public Health Dorset text)
- West Moors figures are good: for seven days now we have been 'suppressed', meaning cases within the council area were 2 or less. Many surrounding council areas are also 'suppressed' – remains to be seen what happens over the holiday weekend to come.
- Critical regulation changes to come: From **29th March**: outdoor gatherings with restrictions (“Rule of 6” returns), outdoor/amateur sports etc. For the time being, people are still being encouraged to work from home, but effectively, the 'Lockdown' (No. 3) will end.
- From this date, all Town Council owned sports facilities will become available again.
- From **31st March**: the shielding scheme for 'clinically extremely vulnerable' people will end – they will no longer be advised to stay and home and NOT go to work, shop, etc., but will join in with the 'general' restrictions of the rest of the population. Many in this category have been stuck at home for over a year!
- From **12th April**: more changes (full list to be entered but includes non-essential shops/retail, hairdressers, public buildings [e.g., Memorial Hall], libraries, outdoor bar/restaurant facilities etc.) provided improvement continues (following the opening of the schools). This is, for many people, the critical easing date of the latest Lockdown. Holidays (self-catering and/or self-contained) within England will be allowed for example,

- From **17th May** (to be confirmed) ... further easing of restrictions, with most legal restrictions on meeting other people lifted both indoor and out – but probably with some sort of maximum number. More people allowed at weddings, funerals & sports facilities will see spectators – provided essentially an outdoor venue.