

## **Rising Covid-19 rates in Milton Keynes**

### **Statement by the Leader of the Council**

Covid-19 infection rates are now at a very serious level in Milton Keynes.

Yesterday our rate per 100,000 is in the mid-250s and we expect the rate to be over 300 in the next few days. We expect over 700 new cases in the coming week.

The rate of increase is very high and accelerating rapidly, up by over 80% last week.

Our highest rate is in the 11 to 18-year-old age bracket but infection rates in all age groups, and in particular the over 60 age group.

MK University Hospital is under enormous pressure and has more Covid-19 patients than at the peak of the national pandemic.

It is probable that our Covid-19 infection rate is higher today than it was in the spring.

Taken together it is now highly probable that we will be placed into Tier 3 when the government reviews the Tiers nationally tomorrow.

I wish to say that while action does seem necessary, I am concerned over the benefit of Tier 3 restrictions over their impact given the unique nature of Milton Keynes, and would call on the government to look at how more effective solutions can be found while supporting jobs, livelihoods and our economy.

We know that not one single thing is causing our outbreak locally. It is general person to person transmission. Stay home if you can and limit mixing.

We will be offering all secondary school pupils a home testing kit as one of the measures to cut the rate.

We are also supporting our care homes who have seen a rise in cases.

I will provide more information when we know more tomorrow.