

25 August, 2020

Covid-19 Latest Information within Walsall

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Health and Wellbeing

1. Aim

1.1 Report detailing the latest information on Covid-19 within the Walsall borough.

2. Recommendations

2.1 For SOC to consider the latest information on Covid-19 within Walsall.

3. Report detail – know

Introduction

3.1 This report was prepared the week beginning 10 August 2020 and provides information available at that time. Daily Covid-19 case numbers can rapidly change and thus the latest figures are best delivered verbally during the session. Each of the following sections will therefore include a URL to the latest data available, where possible so members can find the most up to date information.

Daily Cases

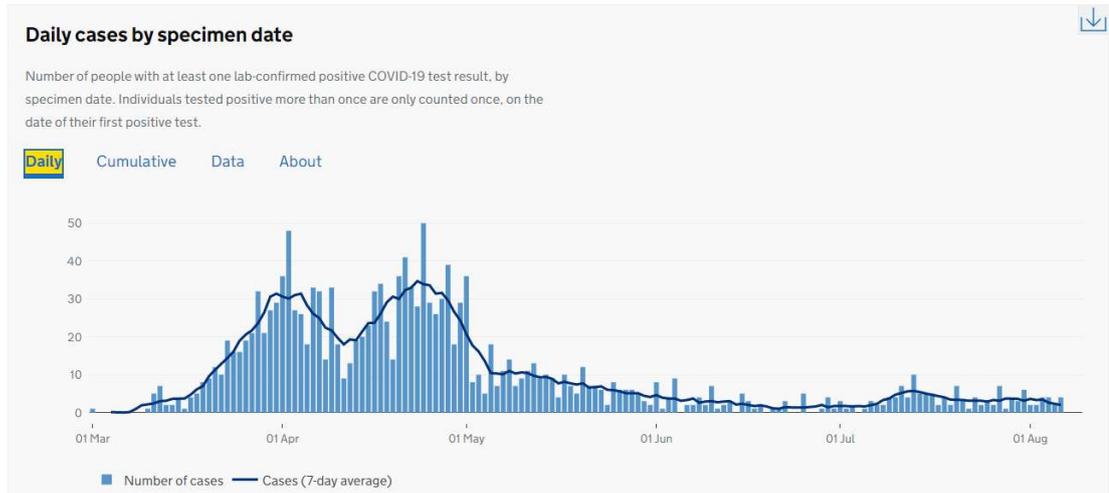
3.2 The latest COVID-19 cases are now available through the recently improved National COVID-19 Dashboard, which is updated daily and can be filtered by Local Authority (please be aware that latest cases are subject to change, as results are processed & can change up to 3 days later).

Cases in Walsall

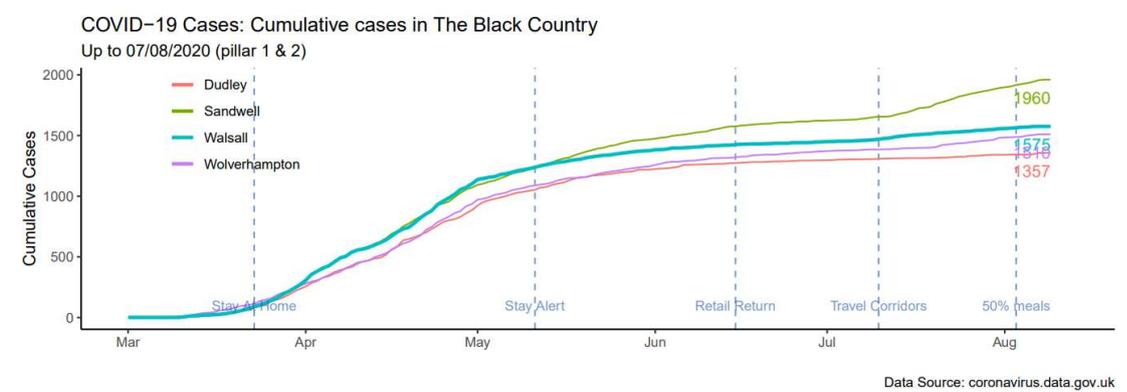
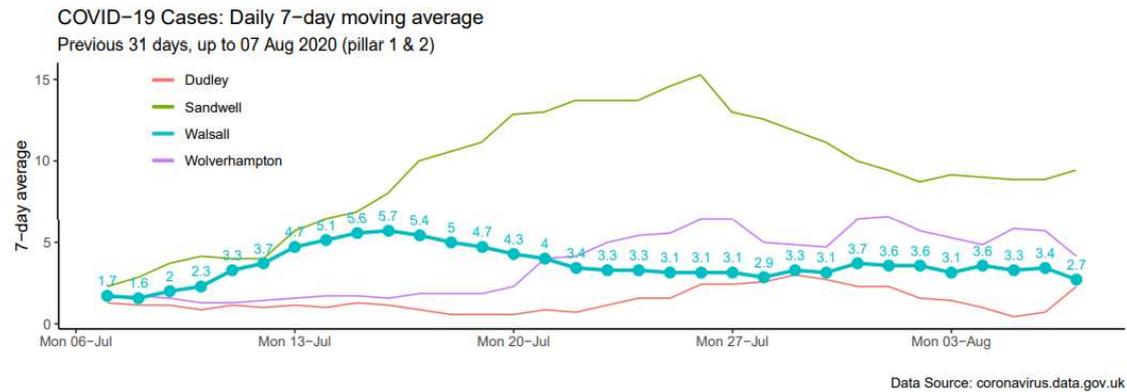
Cases data are available for **nations**, **regions** and **local authorities**.

People tested positive

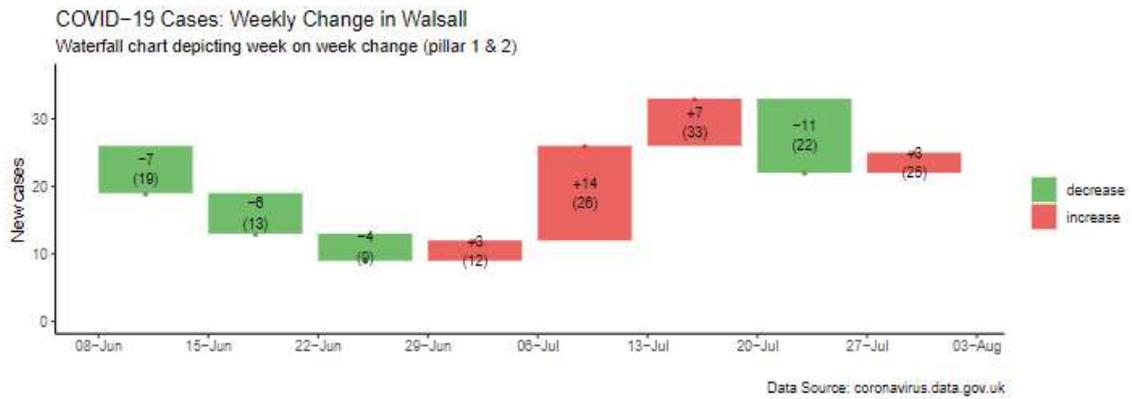
Daily Total
3 **1,575**



3.3 Positive cases within Walsall have been relatively stable for the previous 3 weeks (as at 7th August) at around 3 cases per day (7-day average), down from 5.7 cases per day in mid-July. This is relatively higher level than in early July, of 1-2 cases per day (which matches the national picture).



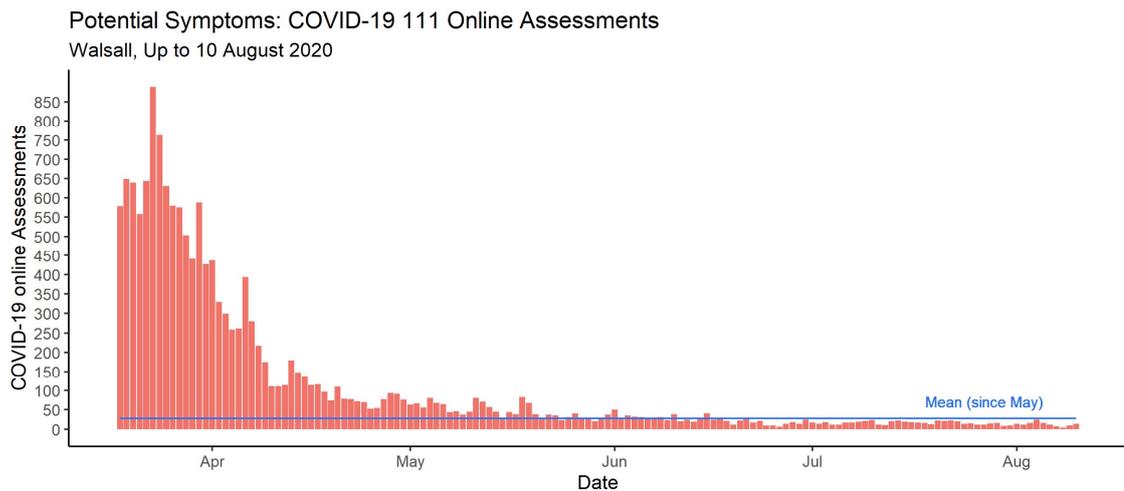
3.4 The following chart shows the rise in cases during early July: relatively small numbers with a peak of 33 confirmed cases within one week, followed by a fall to around 20-25 new cases per week as of early August.



URL: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases?areaType=Itla&areaName=Walsall>

Triages (111 & 999 Calls)

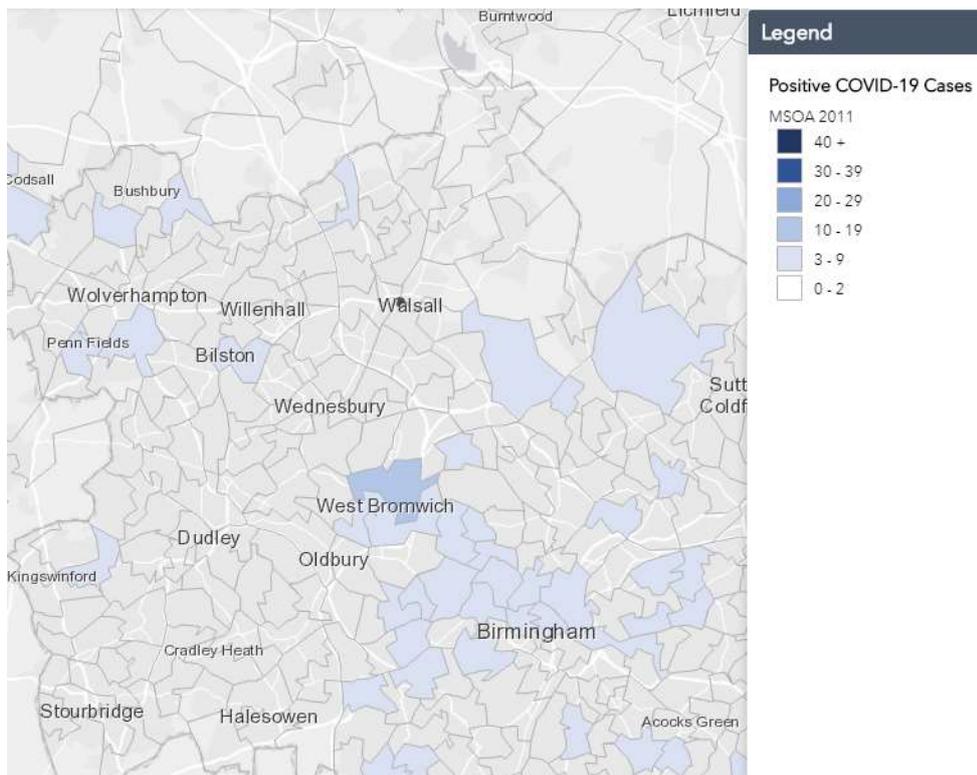
- 3.5 New cases figures are only those confirmed through lab testing (pillar 1 & 2), and therefore as a proxy measure it is useful to monitor “trriages” – 111 online assessments & 999 calls from the general public regarding potential COVID-19 symptoms.



URL: <https://digital.nhs.uk/dashboards/progression>

Cases Map

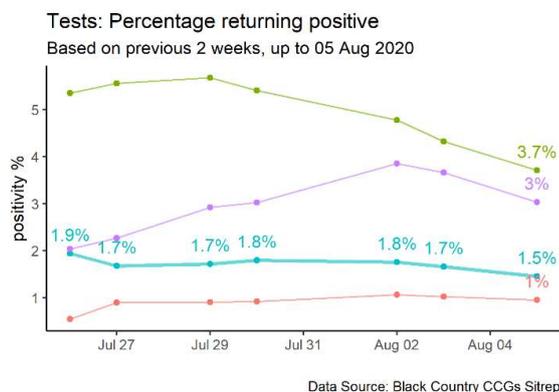
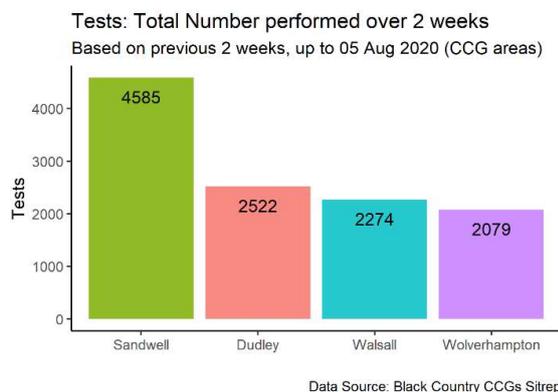
- 3.6 Recent cases are mapped to MSOAs (Middle-layer Super Output Areas): areas with a mean population of 10,000 (smaller areas are more densely populated). Only areas of 3 or more cases are highlighted (data protection) – but as of week 32 (ending 06/08), Walsall has 2 areas of between 3-9 cases and no areas of more than 9 cases, with no obvious clusters. However, there is a greater concentration of cases recorded around West Bromwich, to the South.



URL: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=47574f7a6e454dc6a42c5f6912ed7076&find=ws11tp>

Testing and Positivity

3.7 There has been a relatively stable level of proportion of tests returned as positives in Walsall in recent weeks (positives as a proportion of total tests), with a slight fall to 1.5% as of 05/08. All Black Country Local Authorities are experiencing falls in positivity as of early August, Dudley remaining stable at ~1%.

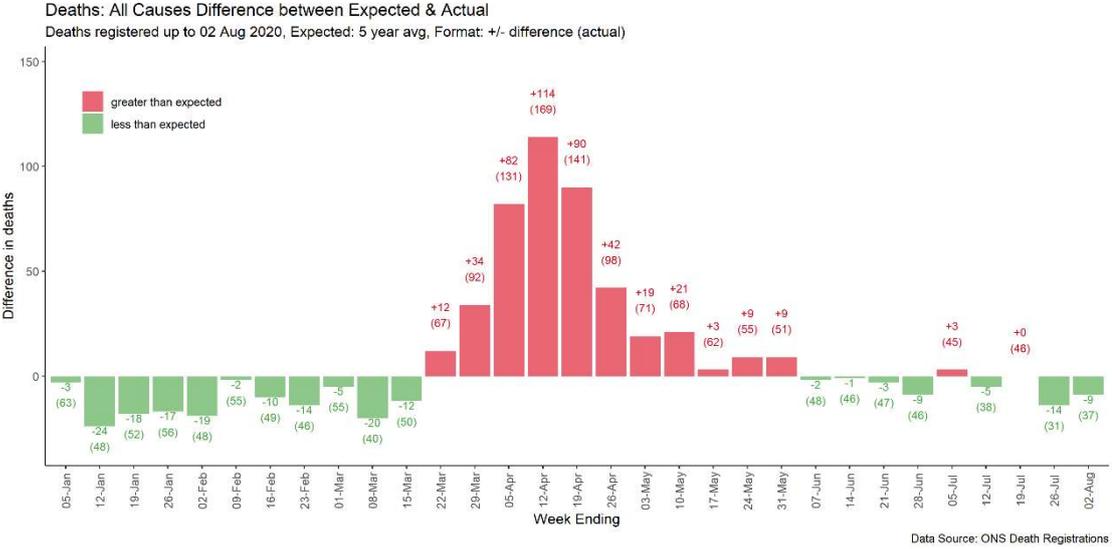


Unexpected Mortality

3.8 Comparing 5-year average deaths by week with actual deaths recorded in 2020 gives us a means of assessing the direct and indirect mortality impact of the COVID-19 outbreak (All causes, not just deaths registered as COVID-19).

3.9 The red bars on the following graph illustrate the deaths in excess of what we would 'normally' expect (based on previous years). At its peak, approximately 3 times the expected.

3.10 Throughout July there has been no further large peaks in unexpected mortality (Death registration data has a lag of around 2 weeks).



ONS National Weekly Bulletin URL (from which the above figures are derived): <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/latest>

PHE Watch-list & Weekly Cases

3.11 PHE maintains a “Watchlist” of local authorities experiencing rapid and/or consistent rise in cases that may ultimately require intervention (i.e. local lock-down): Walsall is not amongst them, however after a rise in cases, Sandwell is listed as a “concern”, albeit experiencing a fall in cases recently (of importance due to proximity to Walsall):

Table 1: Local Authority Watchlist areas

Lower Tier Local Authority	Individuals tested per day per 100,000 population (7 day moving average)	Trend	Incidence per 100,000 population (weekly)	Trend	Contain Framework Watchlist Status – week beginning 3 August	Change in Watchlist Status from previous week	Area with household mixing prohibited?
Blackburn with Darwen*	249.1	↓	80.6	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Oldham*	168.1	↓	65.4	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Leicester	351.7	↓	57.1	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Bradford*	124	↓	54.9	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Calderdale*	121.2	↓	43.3	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Pendle*	261.2	↓	42.7	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Trafford*	170.4	↓	38.9	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Manchester*	127.6	↓	36.5	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Rochdale*	161.6	↓	30.9	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Tameside*	138	↓	29.3	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Salford*	127.7	↓	25.2	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Kirklees*	113.4	↓	24.4	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Stockport*	156.5	↓	24	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Burnley*	119.1	↓	21.5	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Bolton*	108.3	↓	18.2	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Bury*	115	↓	17.4	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Hyndburn*	165.5	↓	16.1	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Preston	126.4	↓	36	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Rossendale*	122.7	↓	8.5	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Wigan*	94.1	↓	5.8	↓	Intervention	→	YES
Luton	496.7	↓	22	↓	Enhanced Support	→	NO
Swindon	102.1	↓	46.8	↓	Concern	→	NO
Northampton	169.8	↓	29.8	↓	Concern	→	NO
Peterborough	147.2	↓	28.4	↓	Concern	→	NO
Sandwell	86.5	↓	22.9	↓	Concern	→	NO
Bedford	125.2	↓	22.7	↓	Concern	→	NO
Wakefield	113.5	↓	15.1	↓	Concern	→	NO
Dadby and Wigston	300.7	↓	12.3	↓	Concern	→	NO
Eden	180.7	↓	9.5	↓	Concern	→	NO
England	105	↓	9	↓			

Data for specimens taken between 24 and 30 July as extracted on 04 August

*Local authority is part of an area in which overall infection rates are high, with household transmission a key infection pathway.

- 3.12 PHE also provide a weekly report detailing the latest COVID-19 rate per 100,000, which allows for basic comparison between local authorities.
- 3.13 The table to the left ranks those areas: Walsall falls within the top third (44 out of 149) as of early August, but is experiencing a stable level of cases & is not presently at risk of Intervention.

National Rank (out of 149)	UTLA name	Rate per 100,000 population
1	Blackburn with Darwen	77.9
2	Oldham	56.5
3	Leicester	55.5
4	Bradford	48.8
5	Swindon	47.3
6	Calderdale	36.7
7	Manchester	32.1
8	Rochdale	29.6
9	Trafford	29.2
10	Tameside	26.2

Black Country & Birmingham:

21	Sandwell	15.9
23	Wolverhampton	14.5
33	Birmingham	11.7
44	Walsall	7.4
107	Dudley	2.8

Week 31, ending 2nd August 2020

URL:<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports>

Outbreak Management Plan

- 3.14 The Walsall COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan, led by the Director of Public Health Walsall, is the operational response and management for coronavirus disease and any outbreaks that may occur in the borough. The plan builds on established plans, processes and governance already in place.
- 3.15 The primary aims of the plan is to ensure that COVID-19 is controlled, the spread of infection is reduced and lives are saved. In doing so it will help to return life to as normal as possible, for as many people as possible, in a way that is safe. The Walsall COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan will remain a live document, reflecting the evolving nature of guidance, expectations and local experience.
- 3.16 A [data dashboard](#) is available, as part of the Outbreak Management Plan, to provide a brief overview of the pandemic within Walsall, through 3 sections:
- **Cases** - *COVID-19 Prevalence*
 - **Shielding** - *Requests for assistance/support for vulnerable individuals*
 - **Mortality** - *COVID-19 registered deaths*

URL:https://go.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19_information/covid-19_-_i_want_to_know/outbreak_management_plan

Communications to members and community

- 3.17 Regular communications from the chief executive are sent out to members, MPs and staff to inform them of the actions the council is taking in response to Covid-19 as well as key messages and actions people can take to protect themselves and others from Covid-19.
- 3.18 The Council social media (ie @walsallcouncil, @phwalsall) and other communication channels (<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/newsroom>) are also being used to engage and communicate key messages to the community.
- 3.20 As an important reminder we continue to urge those to leave correct information if they attend gatherings ie public house. If there is a positive case, follow up contact tracing is much more effective which in turn reduces the potential spread of Covid-19 in the community.
- 3.21 To help control the virus and to protect yourself and others, when you leave home you must:
- *wash hands* - keep washing your hands regularly
 - *cover face* - wear a face covering over your nose and mouth in enclosed spaces
 - *make space* - stay at least a metre away from people not in your household

If you are feeling unwell, get a test and do not leave home for at least 10 days.

4. Financial information

- 4.1 The Plan will be resourced by the £1.65m central government grant, which has no time framework for spend. The principles of investment are to align with the themes in the Plan, invest in evidence based interventions and ensure value for money of those investments. It is anticipated we will be living with Covid-19 for some time and therefore the grant investment has been profiled to be spent over the next year or so.
- 4.2 The grant has been allocated to the following areas;
- Around £1m for staffing, including PH specialist, contract tracers, swabbing teams, infection control nurses, on call staff, analytical capacity and project management
 - Around £300k for operational peripherals ie swabbing kits, IT hardware and software, and travel expenses
 - Around £50k for communications and engagement ie print, translation and videos etc.
 - Around £250k for community engagement and support for the vulnerable ie continued investment in Making Connections Walsall, community training and capacity building
 - The rest of the grant is for contingency.
- 4.3 Use of resources will be monitored through the governance structure of the Outbreak Management Plan to ensure value for money and effective deployment of the grant.

5. Reducing Inequalities

- 5.1 It has been well documented that Covid-19 has and will continue to impact disproportionately in our community. In the implementation of the Outbreak Management Plan there is a key focus to support our most vulnerable and with the key theme of prevention of Covid-19 action focused in those areas with greatest risk.
- 5.2 These actions have included translated materials, dissemination of messages through community leaders, community capacity building and using know channels of engagement to ensure trusted messages are being received and understood. This will continue to be a dynamic process as we continue to learn and respond to the challenges Covid-19 presents us.

6. Decide

- 6.1 The information provided, gives SOC the opportunity to understand the current picture of Covid-19 in Walsall.

7. Respond

- 7.1 Information provided in this report was prepared week beginning 10 August. SOC members are encouraged to review the most up to date data through the

URL's provided before the meeting to provide the latest picture of Covid-19 in Walsall for SOC to consider.

8. Review

- 8.1 The Member Led Engagement Board provides the on-going oversight, assurance and opportunity for community engagement and communication.

Background papers

Walsall Outbreak Management Plan and data can be found at:
[https://go.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19_information/covid-19 -
i want to know/outbreak management plan](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19_information/covid-19_-_i_want_to_know/outbreak_management_plan)

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