

Appendix 1

Social Media

Facebook

2,775
POSTS



15,000

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS

2,300
INTERACTIONS

5.19
MILLION
REACH ON
FACEBOOK



Twitter

Blaenau Gwent CBC @BlaenauGwentCBC · Mar 8
Today is International Women's Day. This year's theme is 'Choose to Challenge'. We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and all inequality and, collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world. Let's all #ChooseToChallenge



Aspire Blaenau Gwent & Merthyr Tydfil's Shared Apprenticeship Program has directly benefited 123 apprentices as well as companies that have adopted its innovative approach. @BlaenauGwentCBC bit.ly/2NY0YA4 @ApprenticeWales #AAC2021



11,980

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS



26.35

MILLION
REACH ON
TWITTER

2,119
TWITTER
POSTS

Website

197,000
VISITORS

1.5M
PAGE
VIEWS

75%
RETURNING
VISITORS



Top 7
most
popular
pages

- 1 HOME PAGE**
- 2 WASTE & RECYCLING**
- 3 MY SERVICES**
- 4 COVID-19**
- 5 SEARCH RESULTS**
- 6 JOBS**
- 7 PLANNING**

Appendix 1 Internal Communications



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

MD Message

**Managing Director Message
Coronavirus (Covid-19 Update)**
Blaenau Gwent
Date: Friday 13 March 2021

The situation in Blaenau Gwent and Wales continues to improve and the latest update from Public Health Wales shows that the number of confirmed cases in Blaenau Gwent is now at 37 per 100,000 population - the lowest level since early last Autumn.

The vaccination programme is also working very well and is spreading up the next few weeks as more doses, in particular of the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine become available. A new clinic also opened this week in Bedwellty House operated by Tredegar Health Centre which will extend our capacity and support the existing operation in the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and compliance with the strict measures which have been in place since early December. I appreciate that this has been really difficult but your compliance has helped drive the case numbers down.

Welsh Government announces some important changes to lockdown

The latest review of restrictions announced by Welsh Government today will see a number of measures eased in the next few weeks.

From Saturday 13 March

- 'Stay at home' becomes 'stay local'. The rule of thumb is that you should think local as a five-mile radius from where you live but there is flexibility to extend this in rural parts of Wales.
- Four people from two different households can meet up outdoors to socialise, including in gardens - children are excluded from the number.

**Managing Director Message
Coronavirus (Covid-19 Update)**
Blaenau Gwent
Date: Friday 8 January 2021

As we move into 2021 things are still moving very quickly as we continue to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. First, I would like to recognise and thank all the staff who worked over the holiday period across all services, dealing with the response to Covid 19. We are expecting the next few months to remain challenging. The case incidence in Blaenau Gwent has fallen over the last 10 days and is showing signs of stabilising. However, as testing picks up and the impact of the holiday break becomes clear, we expect cases to increase again. At this stage we just don't know what impact the lockdown will have and how the new more infectious variant of the virus identified in officials is that the new variant will become more dominant in Wales and that the spread of the pandemic will increase, as will the R Number.

There is some light at the end of the tunnel as the second vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca was approved for use in the UK on 30 December 2020. This is really welcome news because it is much easier to store and transport than the Pfizer vaccine and can therefore be rolled-out to a wider population more quickly.

The vaccination programme is in its early stages and it will take some time before it is widely available to more people. It is important that we all follow the rules to protect ourselves and others and you should continue with regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing a mask when required. The requirement to work from home where possible is still firmly in place and plenty of advice and guidance has been previously sent out to staff.

Weekly staff Guidance

COVID-19 GUIDANCE
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance
Blaenau Gwent
County Borough Council

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1 Issued 17.12.2020

COVID-19: GUIDANCE

Guidance

All employees have a duty to look after their own health, safety and welfare, and that of their colleagues, which includes following and keeping up to date with the advice in operating with the Council to ensure a safe workplace. Employees must seek official advice that may be easily accessible, rather than taking up resources unnecessarily. This guidance is not intended to provide advice to cover all scenarios. Case by case agencies may need to be sought from the appropriate internal officers and external agencies.

Compliance with health and safety requirements

The legislation and guidance around social distancing and other health and safety measures are designed to keep us all safe and it is your responsibility to follow these. For staff not working in front line services homeworking should be undertaken wherever possible. However, if possible, staff must observe social distancing rules by virtue of their role should apply strict hygiene rules to their environment and must wear appropriate PPE (e.g. face masks) at all times when unable to apply the 2 metre rule.

These measures are critical to the health and safety of all staff and non-compliance can adversely impact the individuals responsible but also those around them. Accordingly, failure to comply with health and safety requirements such as social distancing (in roles where this is possible) and the wearing of appropriate PPE may result in disciplinary action.

Face masks / Face coverings

From 27th July 2020, face coverings have been mandatory on public transport. Guidance regarding when and where to wear a face covering is available: [here](#). From 1st September, face coverings became mandatory in indoor public places where this is necessary. Please note that there is no need for staff to wear face coverings in offices if social distancing can be maintained. If the public visit any school building, however, then they should wear face coverings.

Very limited cases, some employees have been unable to wear face masks or face coverings. The links at the end of this section provide detailed information regarding reasons as follows:

- If either PPE (face masks) or face coverings are required by a covid-19 related risk assessment (e.g. if general health and safety at work)

3 Issued 10.12.2020

Regular members team briefings

Elected Member Update
Blaenau Gwent
14 DECEMBER 2020

Dear Member

I am writing to update you on the latest position in relation to schools in Blaenau Gwent and our plans for the remainder of this term.

I know that many of you have expressed concerns about the self-isolation status of pupils in our schools, and the potential that this could occur over the Christmas period which many will have planned to spend with their loved ones. As the Executive Member for Education, I share these concerns. I can now inform you that a decision has been made that will see all our schools make a move to remote learning for pupils from Thursday, 10th December 2020, with sites closing on Wednesday, 9th December. This decision has been made in full consultation with our Headteachers, who were unanimously supportive of the move.

You will know that schools have developed robust home learning plans over the course of this year and, whilst sites will be physically closed, they will continue to provide high quality teaching and learning via the digital platforms which parents and carers will already be familiar with. Teaching staff will continue to work to deliver teaching and learning remotely until the end of term on Friday, 18th December and to support families with any remote learning requirements they may have. Headteachers are clear that this approach will ensure that learning can continue and indeed be enhanced until the end of this term. Devices remain with those previously digitally excluded learners so no pupil should be disadvantaged in that way as a result of this decision.

We will support those families eligible for Free School Meals through the direct payments system.

This decision has been made in the best interests of our schools, in recognition that cases of COVID-19 in Blaenau Gwent remain amongst the highest in Wales, and is supported by health professionals working on the Covid response in the borough.

Our fantastic teaching and school support staff have worked so hard to support learners throughout this very difficult year, and we are thankful for their hard work and dedication to our children and young people.

Kind regards,
Councillor Joanne Collins
Executive Member for Education

**Member Brief
Estyn update**
Blaenau Gwent
19 FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Member,

Last year, Welsh Government asked Estyn to review the work of local authorities in Wales in relation to how they have supported Schools and Education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The period reviewed was from March 2020 to October 2020, and placed the emphasis on how we worked to re-open schools and how we supported our most vulnerable pupils here in Blaenau Gwent.

We have worked positively with our schools and education settings on the challenge of supporting children and young people to continue learning through the Coronavirus Pandemic, and will do so in line with Welsh Government regulations.

Estyn recently received formal written feedback from Estyn in relation to their findings. I am pleased to let you that overall this was positive about the work that has taken place with schools and young people to support our children and young people during what has clearly been an extremely difficult period.

Estyn recognises four areas of notable practice, covering:

- Strong collaboration across the Local Authority;
- Beneficial support for vulnerable pupils by the Educational Psychology service;
- The work of the local authority youth service; and,
- Effective sharing of ICT resources.

We acknowledge that we approached our response to the COVID-19 emergency through a period, and that the joint working between corporate colleagues from across several services has been effective in supporting children and young people, their families and the community.

Appendix 1 COVID-19 Response

Schools

Gweithio gyda'n hysgolion i gadw Blaenau Gwent yn ddiogel ac yn dysgu



#DiogelCymru #CadwCymru

Working with our schools to keep Blaenau Gwent safe and learning



#KeepWalesSafe #KeepWalesLearning #reassurance

We're working with our schools to keep Blaenau Gwent safe & learning. More learners have returned to the classroom. Schools have all the necessary COVID-19 safety measures in place, but parents and carers can help to Keep Education Safe, too.

Schools have all the necessary COVID-19 safety measures in place, but you can help us too by:

- Not lingering at or around the school grounds and mixing with other parents
- Wearing a face covering at pick up and drop off times.
- Keeping a 2metre distance from everyone else.
- Sticking to any staggered start/finish times and one way systems.
- Not attending at the school for any other reason apart from picking up or dropping off your child, there are other ways to contact and speak with your child's teachers.

Thank you
Together, let's #KeepWalesSafe



Exam Results

Are you receiving your GCSE results this week?

If so we'd love to see some photos of you celebrating!

Please post them on our Facebook page @BlaenauGwent or tag us in your Tweets @BlaenauGwent so we can share your amazing achievements across the county borough

Track, Trace, Protect

THE GWENT TEST, TRACE AND PROTECT SERVICE IS CONTACTING OVER 89% OF ALL COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES AND THEIR CLOSE CONTACTS WITHIN 24 HRS.

YOU WILL ONLY GET A CALL FROM 02921 961133

PLEASE ANSWER ALL CALLS FROM THIS NUMBER. YOU MUST ISOLATE IF YOU GET A CALL OR AN ALERT FROM THE NHS COVID-19 APP

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A CASE NUMBER AND COULD BE ENTITLED TO £500.

ISOLATING PROTECTS YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND SAVES LIVES

For further information visit www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Get a test if you have symptoms



Contact tracing is not about enforcement or surveillance.

It is to protect your health and the health of your friends, family, colleagues, and community.

Together we'll keep Wales safe.



Temporary mobile testing unit available for another week in Nantyglo



If a contact tracer calls, self-isolate immediately

They'll usually call from 029 2196 1133

Lockdown

Exercise locally

Together we'll keep Wales safe gov.wales/coronavirus



Stay home

Together we'll keep Wales safe gov.wales/coronavirus



There is a new strain of coronavirus in Wales. It spreads faster and more easily

It's more important than ever to follow the rules

- Stay home. Limit contact with others
- Wash hands, keep your distance and wear a face mask when needed
- Work from home whenever you can

Together we'll keep Wales safe gov.wales/coronavirus

ALERT FOR BLAENAU GWENT

Due to a sharp increase in coronavirus cases in this area, new restrictions are in place to protect people's health and prevent further spread.

For more information and to keep informed visit gov.wales/local-lockdown

Vaccines

Mae Brechu yn achub bywydau
Vaccination saves lives

End Jan	Mid Feb	Spring	Autumn
All care home residents and staff	Frontline health and social care staff, all over 70s and all clinically extremely vulnerable	All over 50s and everyone in line with JCVI guidance because of underlying health conditions	All other eligible adults, in line with JCVI guidance

Vaccination follows the JCVI priority lists (Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation)

Together we'll keep Wales safe gov.wales/coronavirus

CORONAVIRUS

Coronavirus vaccinations are free of charge. The NHS will never:


- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

Coronavirus vaccine scams

OFFICIAL

Mae Brechu yn achub bywydau
Vaccination saves lives

The vaccine has been proven as safe and effective by the MHRA.



GIG CYMRU NHS WALES / Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales

Mae Brechu yn achub bywydau
Vaccination saves lives

NHS professionals make sure that having a vaccine is the right thing for you

- ✓ Safe
- ✓ Effective
- ✓ There to protect you

