**COVID UPDATE** - forwarded by Sally-Ann Spence (Parish Street Co-ordinator)

**20210129**

**Improving picture across Oxfordshire but COVID still at dangerous levels**

Residents are being reminded not to let their guard down as the levels of COVID-19 remain dangerously high in the county, despite a slightly improving picture. While there has been **a decline in rates throughout Oxfordshire, they are still much higher than they were in December and hospitals remain under tremendous pressure**.

For the week ending 22 January, there were 294.7 cases per 100,000 people in Oxfordshire compared to 399.5 the week before. However, this is still more than three times higher than the figure of 83.7 per 100,000 on 4 December. **Case rates in the over 60s remain of particular concern**.

Val Messenger, Oxfordshire County Council’s Deputy Director for Public Health, said: “This lockdown is slowly starting to have a positive effect on our rates. However, the rates are falling back at a much slower rate than they rose, and they are much higher than they were back in December. The situation in our hospitals also remains severe and our healthcare staff are under immense pressure.

“The vaccination programme continues to make excellent progress in Oxfordshire, and **we are on track on schedule to achieve the government target of the top four priority groups being vaccinated by mid-February.** However, we must **remember that those who have been vaccinated will not have full protection until at least three weeks after they have received their second dose**. Moreover, **those who have received the vaccine could still pass on the virus to others**. So we can’t afford to let our guard down. To protect each other, we must all continue to adhere to the lockdown rules and public health guidance about washing hands regularly, keeping socially distanced and wearing a face covering.”

Read more on this here:
[https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/covidoxonstats/](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foxfordshireallin.us19.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Db5bb20ca3953a93f3d6affb7f%26id%3D264dac7a16%26e%3Da0d2222ee2&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cbe87b7599ff047dfd5c908d8c4684f96%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637475299575299696%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=EkoaTFryXrc%2BNII9OWUxltBoYx60K5fSSN14VJw%2B%2B3Y%3D&reserved=0)