# Questions and answers: Community briefing on 14 January 2021

**Q.** Can you tell us whether and how we can access support for educational technologies (e.g. laptops) to support children trying to learn at home?

**A.** We have been advised that schools are arranging equipment in liaison with County Council Education for those that need it, so please signpost parents/guardians towards the school. Cambridge Online and Cambs Youth panel will both recycle old computers for redistribution to those that need them.

**Q**. Do you have information as to how the new variant of the virus is affecting South Cambridgeshire?

**A**. We know the new variant is in South Cambridgeshire. However, it is not possible to give full information at this stage on the number of people with it. This is because only a small number of laboratories test for it and we do not have enough data at this stage.

**Q**. So are the current increases in cases the result of the variant, or because of too many contacts?

**A**. Both are having an impact. The new variant has increased cases as it is more transmissible, which means people need to do even more to avoid contact. This is still a factor.

**Q**. Does the virus survive longer in the fridge and out of UV light? If so, for how long?

**A.** Cannot give a definitive answer, though we have seen Covid thrive in cooler environments and many viruses are most problematic during the winter months.

**Q.** Could community transport schemes and taxi vouchers be used for those who can't get to surgeries?

**A.** Community Transport schemes have been asked to assist, and there is currently a [call out for volunteer drivers](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/appeal-for-volunteers-to-transport-people-to-vaccination-appointments) to help. Some Taxi firms have discounts for vaccination appointments noted on their websites.

**Q**. Just to be clear. If no letter/text is received, people shouldn’t contact the NHS for vaccination yet?

**A**. Correct. Please wait for letters/texts giving instructions.

**Q**. It has been written in your statement that Bar Hill Parish Council is providing support for the foreign drivers in the isolation centre by SCDC however this has not been agreed in a council meeting and no plans are in place. There has been a number of complaints online regarding the lack of consultation on this issue. I of course support the need but feel there could be better sites.

**A.** The press release was agreed at the time. However, this has been updated to ensure it is clear that the Council is working with the Bar Hill Covid-19 volunteers instead of the Parish Council. This was at the request of the Chair. The arrangements for the isolation centre were put in place by the Department for Transport without consulting SCDC. The Council had to respond quickly with local support and with very little warning, or time for local consultation.

**Q**. Who is responsible for certifying that lorry drivers isolating at the Bar Hill hotel have been there for the necessary 10 days?

**A**. Monitoring arrangements have been made within the teams dealing with this project, and the Department for Transport holds details of each driver and the dates involved. There is also a process the drivers will have to follow to get the necessary paperwork to go back into Europe.

**Q**. I have seen infection data in the press which is granular down to a parish level. How accurate is this information? If it is accurate, where can we find it so we can monitor infection rates in our own parishes?

**A.** <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map> gives analysis down to ward level.

**Q**. We [Volunteer Groups] have no way of targeting support towards Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people or those in extreme need of help, as we have no data from you. Are SCDC contacting them all again?

**A**. Clinically extremely vulnerable residents have been written to and asked to register. When they register, they are asked a series of questions. If they answer ‘Yes’ to any questions around help and support, then we are sent details of these residents daily. We then ring up these residents to find out what their needs are. If there is a need that your group can help with, we will connect these residents to your community group.

**Q**. Is there going to be another update session?

**A**. Yes. We feel they are helpful for all, and we will publicise the time and date of the next session soon.