

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

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NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

The Covid-19 Contain Framework - Guidance for local authorities and local decision-makers on containing and managing COVID-19 outbreaks at a local level - was published on Friday 17th July. This document sets out how NHS Test and Trace and the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) will work with local authorities, Public Health England (PHE) and the public to contain and manage local COVID-19 outbreaks.

Upper tier local authorities, such as Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, are leading local outbreak planning, within a national framework, and with the support of NHS Test and Trace, PHE and other government departments. In 2 tier areas, county councils are working closely with district councils who have responsibility for environmental health.

Wherever possible, actions to address outbreaks of COVID-19 will be undertaken in partnership with local communities, on the basis of informed engagement and consent. Upper Tier Local Authorities will have powers to close individual premises, public outdoor places and prevent specific events. This means that Upper Tier Local Authorities will no longer have to make representations to a magistrate in order to close a premises. Premises which form part of essential infrastructure will not be in scope of these powers. These new powers will allow Local Authorities to act more rapidly to contain outbreaks linked to a specific setting. The powers to close down whole sectors of business in a local area, or to restrict the general movement of people in the area, will remain with Ministers at national level.

There will be ongoing national monitoring of the epidemiology and trends in Covid-19, and where there are higher or rising levels of Covid-19 cases in a local authority area, national government command structures will designate local authorities into one of three categories:

- area(s) of concern – a watch list of areas with the highest prevalence, where the local area is taking targeted actions to reduce prevalence – for example additional testing in care homes and increased community engagement with high risk groups
- area(s) of enhanced support – for areas at medium/high risk of intervention where there is a more detailed plan, agreed with the national team and with additional resources being provided to support the local team (eg epidemiological expertise, additional mobile testing capacity)
- area(s) of intervention – where there is divergence from the measures in place in the rest of England because of the significance of the spread, with a detailed action plan in place, and local resources augmented with a national support

Peterborough is currently an 'Area of Concern' due to the weekly prevalence of Covid-19 cases being in the top ten local authorities nationally, and a recent rising trend in cases, back to levels seen in early to mid-June.

More information is available on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks>

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

Implementing the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Control Plan

- Public health focus over the past two weeks has been on implementation of the Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP).
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-trace#local-outbreak-control-plan-7-0>

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-trace#local-outbreak-control-plan-7-0>

- The Surveillance Group and the Outbreak Management Team continue to meet daily to deliver the functions described in the LOCP, with on-call arrangements for week-ends. This activity is overseen by the multi-agency Health Protection Board which meets weekly.
- The first meeting of the LOCP Programme Delivery Group was held on Thursday 16th July. This oversees and monitors the detailed action plan and milestones to deliver the LOCP, and will identify and mitigate risks to delivery. It meets weekly and has representatives from the range of organisations involved in delivering the LOCP, and is chaired by the Chief Operating Officer for South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- The Member-led Local Outbreak Engagement Board, jointly Chaired by Cllr Roger Hickford from Cambridgeshire County Council and Cllr John Holdich from Peterborough City Council, had its first meeting on Friday 10th July. This Board meets in public and will provide political leadership and engagement with local residents in relation to outbreak prevention, early identification and control.
- The Finance Sub-Group of the Health Protection Board held its first meeting on Tuesday 7th July. It considered business cases for Test and Trace Grant funding against an overall financial framework and approved funding for:
 - Additional Communications staff and campaigns
 - Increasing the Environmental Health workforce and associated resource requirements in District and City Councils.
 - Additional public health staffing for the Outbreak Management Team
 - Increased local testing capacity
- District Councils make a key contribution to the LOCP, through their Environmental Health function and through their local preventive and rapid response work in the event of a community outbreak in their area. This includes practical support for more vulnerable people asked to isolate at short notice. During the past two weeks, the Director of Public Health met with each of the District/City Council chief executives in Cambridgeshire to discuss their local plans.

Local Resilience Forum

- The Local Resilience Forum Strategic Co-ordination Group, co-chaired by Gillian Beasley and by Jan Thomas, the CCG Accountable Officer, plays an important role in supporting Covid-19 outbreak prevention and management through bringing together the resources of the wider public sector in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, when the resources needed go beyond the scope of the Health Protection Board. A document describing the roles and responsibilities of a range of organisations involved in delivering the LOCP has been agreed through the LRF Strategic Co-ordination Group and published alongside our LOCP.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/PCC-CCC-3126a-Local-outbreak-control-plan-V6.pdf>
- The LRF Training and Exercise sub-group has planned a 'virtual' multi-agency tabletop exercise to test our Local Outbreak Control Plan, and the rapid response to a community outbreak. This will take place on Monday 20th June, and outcomes will be reviewed and incorporated into delivery of the LOCP.

Peterborough Covid-19 cases

Data released by Public Health England on Thursday 16th July placed Peterborough among the top ten local authorities in the country for its weekly rate of COVID-19, with a rise from 18.9 cases per 100,000 in week 28 to 27.36 cases per 100,000 in the most recently reported week. While of concern, this rate is less than a quarter of the level of cases in Leicester, when it went into local lockdown. Hospital admissions remain stable and at a low level.

The number of confirmed cases in Peterborough fluctuates daily so we expect our positioning in the league tables to change frequently in line with this. We also expect that our rates of confirmed cases may increase further in the coming days and weeks, because we are making testing even more accessible for local residents - including a new mobile testing unit at Gladstone Park Community Centre in central Peterborough, which has been open since Wednesday 15th July and is operating seven days a week. We are also looking at siting a further mobile testing unit elsewhere in north Peterborough. Increasing our testing offer is beneficial, as early identification of cases is essential so that we can identify pockets of

infection early, and provide support and advice to help people isolate and break the chain on onward infection.

Rapid action is being taken across a range of communities and settings and includes:

- Providing more targeted communications and engagement in key areas of the city, to ensure that people from all communities understand that Covid-19 is still circulating in our local area, and what they need to do to reduce the risk of either transmitting or catching it.
- Delivering a range of preventive activities through our local multi-agency 'rapid response' team – which includes a range of Council officers, police and most recently health service colleagues and local volunteers who are taking information leaflets door to door in parts of the city
- increased easily accessible testing, with a regional mobile testing unit sited at Gladstone Park Community Centre - with more testing planned for the coming days including potentially offering tests to people without symptoms in high risk areas
- Continuing to respond quickly specific outbreaks e.g. in workplaces or cases in schools – through our Covid-19 Outbreak Management Team which meets daily and works closely with Public Health England and Environmental Health teams.
- Continuing to review data and trends daily through our Covid-19 surveillance cell to get full an understanding as possible of the local picture, which will allow us to understand any changes we need to act on.

Cambridgeshire Covid-19 cases

The number of Covid-19 cases in Cambridgeshire remains low after a decreasing trend, and is stable. Data continues to be reviewed on a daily basis at the Surveillance Cell, and individual cases and outbreaks notified to the Outbreak Management Team are managed appropriately.

Other ongoing work on Covid-19 includes:

- Provision of public health advice and guidance to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (LRF) multi-agency COVID-19 Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG): This is done through the Director of Public health being a member of the SCG, and through a multi-agency Public Health Advice Cell (PHAC) which includes membership from the CCG and Public Health England as well as local authority public health.
- Administration of and provision of public health advice and guidance to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LRF multi-agency COVID-19 Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG)
- Co-chairing the Cambs & Peterborough LRF Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Cell: The LRF PPE cell implements the distribution of PPE sent to the LRF from the national stockpile, for eligible local organisations which require emergency supplies
- Continuing to implement the findings of the stocktake of vulnerable/socially excluded population groups reporting to the LRF Community Reference Group and the LRF Vulnerable People's Recover Sub-Group. This work is being used to support planning for outbreaks of Covid-19 among vulnerable populations, as part of the C&P Local Outbreak Control Plan.
- Public health analysts are involved in ongoing work with the LRF Intelligence Cell on modelling and surveillance, as well as contributing directly to the LOCP Surveillance Cell.
- Working with CCG, CPFT, Voluntary sector and Communications Team on ongoing delivery of a multi-agency COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing plan and campaign.
- Provision of public health advice and guidance to Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council (CCC/PCC) COVID-19 Joint Management Team Gold Group, including updates on most recent Covid-19 data and trends, and the Silver Tactical working group on a range of issues.
- Provision of public health advice and guidance to CCC/PCC People and Communities Management Team and Service Directors on various issues, e.g. PPE and wider Public Health England (PHE) guidance to the social care sector. A public health specialist is working closely with Adult Social Care and the NHS on implementation of new Care Homes national guidance, including prioritisation of testing for residents. Advice is also provided for Children's Services and Education Services.
- Ongoing work with providers of contracted public health programmes to monitor contracts and support with management of COVID-19 related issues

- Maintain regional links with the East of England Public Health England Team and joint Public Health England/NHS England regional incident management. Acting as a conduit for escalation of public health queries and issues to regional PHE team.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

- The LRF Recovery Group Public Health and Prevention sub-group will function as a sub-group of both the LRF and the STP's Recovery work, ensuring a fully joined up approach.
- Public health specialist advice to the LRF Recovery Sub-Group
- Involvement in arrangements for NHS recovery, which will be led by the NHS Sustainable Transformation Partnership (STP).
- Public health specialist advice to the LRF Economic Recovery Sub-Group
- Public Health specialist advice to the LRF Restoration Sub-Group.
- Public Health specialist advice to public transport restoration group
- Public health input to CCC/PCC recovery planning

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- Allocation of funding through the Health Protection Board Finance Sub-Group, outlined under 'New Challenges and Activity' section.

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- Allocation of funding through the Health Protection Board Finance Sub-Group, outlined under 'New Challenges and Activity' section.

WORKFORCE CHANGES

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COMMUNICATIONS

Ongoing joint work with the Communications team on promoting preventive public health messages.