

Bolton's COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan Executive Summary

Bolton's Local Outbreak Control Plan (The Plan) contains the principles of Covid-19 outbreak management across Bolton including an outline of the key roles and responsibilities across the system, the mechanisms and infrastructure in place to deliver this, and appropriate routes of accountability.

This is a high-level summary of the approach to managing and preventing the spread of Covid-19 which will allow our residents and communities to safely live with Covid-19 during the current phase of the pandemic. It includes sections on how our approach aligns to national and regional systems; detail of the approaches we are taking to prevent outbreaks; and a description of the systems and steps in place to effectively manage outbreaks that may occur across our population.

Please note this is a dynamic plan which will continue to be informed by local circumstances; intelligence; evidence; and ongoing engagement with our communities.

The Plan identifies local actions to control the transmission of COVID-19 through:

- Proactive infection prevention and control measures
- Operation of the Test, Trace, Contain and Enable (TTCE) system
- Outbreak management
- Community engagement
- Data analysis and intelligence

with a specific focus on reducing and controlling transmission in priority settings, including care homes and schools, and the most vulnerable groups.

The Plan addresses how the local actions identified above are applied to the seven priority areas for outbreak control set out by the Department of Health and Social Care:

- Care homes and schools
- High risk places, locations and communities
- Local testing capacity
- Contact tracing in complex settings
- Data integration
- Vulnerable people
- Local Boards

Proactive infection prevention and control measures

The Plan relies upon the continuation of infection control measures to suppress the virus, and outlines information and support to ensure these measures are communicated and reinforced for the duration of the pandemic. Infection control measures need to be maintained for as long as the virus is circulating in the human population, or until a vaccine becomes available. In the case of COVID-19, it will be at least 12-18 months before a vaccine is available. Control measures include the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in both clinical and non-clinical settings as per government guidance

Operation of the Test, Trace, Contain and Enable (TTCE) system

The UK Government has established a national test, trace, contain and enable (TTCE) service to support the control of COVID-19. The Plan identifies what this means in a Bolton context.

The aim is to ensure that Bolton is well prepared and resourced to prevent and manage COVID-19 infections. The approach will include pro-active measures and will build upon

local knowledge and improve the co-ordination of response across all sectors and with the general public.

Bolton's responsibilities arising from the national TTCE system include: the contact tracing of complex individuals (e.g. rough sleepers), support for individuals to isolate (e.g. helping with essential supplies) and consequence management- managing the unpredictable effects for key individuals, groups and communities.

Outbreak Management

The Plan outlines specific arrangements for outbreak management and instigation of locality Outbreak Control Teams (OCTs) where appropriate. The principles for outbreak management remain the same as those set out in Bolton's existing Outbreak Response Plan and are developed in consultation with Bolton's Community Infection Prevention and Control and Public Health England Health Protection teams.

Community engagement

The plan focuses on supporting prevention and the roll out of the local Test, Trace Contain and Enable (TTCE) programme to ensure prevention messages reach and are adopted by all communities in Bolton. It will ensure local people, communities, voluntary sector, businesses and employers play their part by adopting preventative measures and support TTCE. The Plan will ensure local people and communities are actively involved and support the planning, design and delivery elements of public health messages and TTCE.

Data analysis and intelligence

Bolton's COVID-19 locality Data Cell will provide integrated data and intelligence support to the COVID-19 Health Protection Board enabling surveillance of trends and early warning of outbreaks, including the mapping of vulnerable groups in the locality.

The Plan details the ongoing role of this Data Cell and how it will continue to support and develop the local response to controlling transmission of COVID-19.

The challenges posed by COVID-19 present significant risks to the Council and this plan is a mechanism via which we will mitigate direct risks of COVID-19 infection and transmission. This plan outlines the key steps and functions that will ensure emerging risks in the form of outbreaks in the local area are quickly identified; risk assessed; and acted upon.

The Plan describes how we will manage and control COVID-19 in the current phase of the pandemic and will be crucial in enabling our communities to live with the infection. Providing this safe approach will be crucial in supporting the system across Bolton to deliver against the corporate plan priorities, particularly considering those residents who are more vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19.