



Local Outbreak Management Plan

Common questions

What is a Local Outbreak Management Plan?

The Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) provides a blueprint for managing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks to protect residents and support the most vulnerable. It sets out measures to prevent any further local outbreaks of coronavirus as well as action to respond rapidly to any outbreaks, limiting further transmission.

The plan has been developed to support the national NHS test and trace programme. It ensures the local authority has the necessary capacity and capability to provide a fully co-ordinated approach to contain and manage local outbreaks of coronavirus and will be updated as new national guidance is produced or legislation changes.

While the plan deals with all local coronavirus outbreaks, it also identifies and prioritises preventative and early intervention measures for key settings such as care homes and schools and high-risk locations and communities to make sure they are supported.

What area does the Local Outbreak Management Plan cover?

The plan covers response to any future outbreaks in the Bristol City boundary. We will work closely with neighbouring local authorities to manage outbreaks in areas which border other areas.

Do other areas have Local Outbreak Management Plans?

Yes, the government has instructed all upper tier local authorities (county councils and unitary authorities) to produce a Local Outbreak Management Plan by the end of June 2020. Local authorities have a significant role to play in the identification and management of coronavirus outbreaks and Local Outbreak Management Plans ensure that any local outbreak is responded to swiftly, protecting communities and helping prevent the spread of the virus.

Why do councils need separate plans?

Each council knows its own area and communities best and is experienced in dealing with outbreaks of infectious diseases – not just coronavirus. During foot and mouth, a similar set up was arranged.

All of the local authorities will follow a similar plan, working closely with partners.

How is an outbreak defined?

An outbreak is generally defined as two or more cases connected in time to a specific place (not a household) for example, in a care home, school or factory.

What preventative steps can be taken to reduce the spread of coronavirus?

We all have a role to play in preventing the spread of coronavirus. Sticking to the national [government guidelines](#) including regular hand washing, good respiratory hygiene and social distancing will all help to prevent the spread of coronavirus. In addition, we are working with specific sectors that are known to be at higher risk of an outbreak. 'Action cards' have been developed for individual settings such as workplaces, schools and care homes. These cards set out how and who should be contacted if there is a suspected coronavirus outbreak within the setting and they also set out clear guidance on preventative measures bespoke to particular settings.

How does the Local Outbreak Management Plan help contain outbreaks of coronavirus?

Real-time data and intelligence is the key to a rapid and effective response. Testing helps identify potential outbreaks. As part of the Local Outbreak Management Plan we work with regional and national teams to have a good understanding of our local area. Our experience of other infectious diseases, and the recent outbreak has also helped us build a picture of what is happening in real time. When this evidence is used with our data, it will ensure we can develop effective responses to avoid potential outbreaks.

In the event an outbreak is detected, we will take early intervention measures to stop the spread before it escalates further into the community. The plan sets out a 'toolkit' of infection control measures from advising on hygiene practices, to isolation of people and premises, right through to localised lockdown (in conjunction with Public Health England) depending on the severity of the outbreak.

What happens if there is an outbreak in the community?

The precise action that will be taken will depend upon the complexity of the outbreak.

As soon as an outbreak is detected, an Outbreak Control Team comes together to identify and agree on early intervention measures to be taken to stop the spread before it escalates further into the community. The plan sets out a toolkit of infection control measures including advising on hygiene practices, implementing public health measures, providing focused testing right through to localised lockdown (in conjunction with Public Health England). The action that is taken will depend on the severity of the outbreak and the most appropriate measures.

What happens if I am ill or someone living with me is ill?

If you suspect that you or someone in your household has [coronavirus symptoms](#), you must stay at home and self-isolate. The symptomatic person should be tested. You can order a test through the [NHS website](#). If the results are positive, then the person should self-isolate. If this is someone staying with you, this may be at your home, or it may need to be back at their own home, close to their own medical support.

To find out how NHS Test and Trace Works visit the [government website](#).

Where can I get tested?

Drive through testing facilities are available in Bristol, and mobile test sites are at a range of locations. Book your test and find details of the nearest test facility on the [NHS website](#). You can also request a home testing kit through the website.

How will vulnerable groups be protected and what additional support will be given to these groups?

We are working with specific at high risk and vulnerable groups to make sure they have the support and information required to stay safe. These include black and minority ethnic communities, refugees and asylum seekers, people with learning disability and autism and older people and people with underlying health conditions. We will ensure that the health needs of these communities are addressed.

We will continue to provide resources required to support vulnerable people who are self-isolating and will make sure that those resources are also available to those instructed to self-isolate either due to symptoms or contact tracing. We are already working with the voluntary sector and if there is a surge of requirements, further capacity to effectively respond to outbreaks will be requested through the Local Resilience Forum.

How are higher risk settings protected?

We are working with specific sectors (care, health, education etc) as part of the Local Outbreak Management Plan to make sure that those at higher risk of an outbreak have the resources to implement preventive measures in the first place and also know what to do if there is a suspected outbreak. As part of the national public health programme, 'action cards' have been developed for individual settings such as workplaces. These cards set out how and who should be contacted if there is a suspected coronavirus outbreak within the setting. They also set out clear guidance on preventative measures bespoke to the setting.

How does this work link with the NHS test and trace service?

When someone tests positive for coronavirus then the NHS test and trace service is notified. There are three tiers of contact tracing:

Tier 3. National contact tracers who will make initial contact and provide advice to those testing positive and those they have been in contact with.

Tier 2: More complex than tier 3, such as an outbreak in a community setting that requires an additional risk assessment and support by trained health care professionals.

Tier 1: A complex outbreak that occurs within a setting such as a school or care home. Local Health Protection Teams will work with local partners to contain and undertake contact tracing.

Local authorities will be involved in Tier 1 events, as the knowledge and resource of local partners will be key to responding quickly in order to minimise spread.

What happens if I live in Bristol but work in another area?

If you are required to take specific actions in the event of a local outbreak, these will be given to you at the time by contact tracers or team in charge of managing the outbreak. It is important you follow their advice to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

As this plan outlines ways of working, when will you tell us about the specific actions?

Specific actions will be unique to each case and therefore the plan focuses on providing consistency of quick response while offering flexibility in the exact actions implemented. We will be creating toolkits of infection control measures including advising on hygiene practices, implementing public health measures, providing focused testing right through to localised lockdown (in conjunction with Public Health England) depending on the severity of the outbreak and the most appropriate action.

How is this funded?

Nationally £300million has been allocated for local authorities to support the additional public health capacity required to develop and implement the plans. Bristol City Council's share of the Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant Determination is £3,032,572.

How will you ensure people follow the plan?

We will be working closely with public to find out their views, concerns and worries. By working with the public we can put the right support in place so people not only understand the importance of preventing the spread of infection, but know the steps they need to take with the reassurance they will be supported.