

LOCAL OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN SUMMARY 2020



Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan which was published on June 30th 2020

It should be noted that the Local Outbreak Control Plan is a working document and will be updated regularly to reflect changes required to ensure it remains up to date and can be successfully executed during outbreaks.



National Requirements

The purpose of the National Test and Trace programme is to control the COVID-19 rate of reproduction (the 'R' rate), reduce the spread of infection and save lives.

Controlling the virus requires a co-ordinated effort from local and national government, Public Health England, the NHS, GPs, businesses and employers, voluntary organisations, community partners, and the public.

Local authorities are required to work with partners to build on existing health protection plans to put in place measures to identify and contain outbreaks and protect the public's health. A Local Outbreak Control Plan is required to document these local plans.

Within these plans, councils must consider what preventative measures are required, how the situation in schools and care homes are monitored, possible scenarios and what strategies are needed to manage an outbreak in these settings.

These plans must set out how vulnerable people are being supported to self-isolate, as well as how complex cases will be managed in high-risk places, locations and communities, in particular care homes and schools.

Councils will need to work closely with the National Joint Biosecurity Centre, which has the role of bringing together data from testing and contact tracing, alongside other NHS and public data, to provide insight into local and national patterns of transmission and potential high-risk locations and to identify early potential outbreaks so action can be taken.



Suffolk's Requirements

In Suffolk, our approach to the Local Outbreak Control Plan builds on existing relationships and processes and outlines how agencies in Suffolk will work together to prevent, manage and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks local. These plans are to be led by the Director of Public Health.

In the context of the Suffolk Local Outbreak Control Plan, an outbreak is defined as:

- 2 or more linked cases in a high-risk setting e.g. workplace, school etc
- greater than expected occurrence of COVID-19 compared with the usual level for a particular place and time

Suffolk has received £2.79million from £300million set aside by Government to support the delivery of Local Outbreak Control Plans.

the purpose of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan is to protect the health of the people of Suffolk by:

- Preventing the spread of COVID-19
- Containing and suppressing outbreaks of COVID-19
- Early identification and proactive management of outbreaks

Suffolk's plans follow established and evidenced based methods of Public Health Action, establishment of member governance arrangements and the production of epidemiological surveillance. The plan coordinates capabilities across agencies and stakeholders to deliver this.

The plan supports 7 nationally identified themes. These are:

- Care Homes & Schools
- High Risk Places, Locations & Communities
- Local Testing Capacity
- Contact Tracing in Complex Settings
- Data Integration
- Engagement and Communication
- Governance



Structure of the plan

Suffolk's Outbreak Control Plan encompasses these 7 national required themes and groups them into 5 areas. These areas provide the plans structure:

1. Prevent and Respond

More than 30 complex settings and groups have been identified which require robust plans for both prevention and management of outbreaks. These include care homes, schools, health settings, workplaces, public spaces, BAME communities and those that are shielded.

For each identified setting, group risk assessments have been completed. Wrap around support has been identified and clear actions and pathways have been defined for outbreak management to ensure a co-ordinated response.

2. Testing

These plans provide a strategic and coordinated approach to COVID-19 testing in Suffolk.

There is a focus on care home testing, hospital testing, lab capacity and workforce for swabbing. Local pathways, protocols and processes for testing and for rapid deployment of testing resources in a flexible way for all identified scenarios have been developed.

3. Data

These plans bring together national, regional and local intelligence and insight to develop best understanding of what is happening in Suffolk, in as real time as possible, to inform action.

Public Health Knowledge and Intelligence have already set up as Suffolk COVID-19 Data Centre which will continue to monitor the local situation.

4. Engagement & Communication

These plans:

- provide clear guidance on how to use NHS Test and Trace and encourage people to follow the guidance
- Set out how key messages reach groups and settings identified in the plan as requiring robust plans for prevention and management of outbreaks. Key messages will support those who are isolating and need help to access support
- Provide clear guidance in the event of a local outbreak.



5. Governance

These plans establish governance structures and clear pathways, bringing together local experts and leaders to scrutinise and review data, agree plans and approaches and make recommendation on steps to contain the virus. This is being managed through a new Covid19 Health Protection Board and Local Outbreak Engagement Board (made up of elected leaders from across Suffolk).

Suffolk's Delivery of the Plan

Suffolk has put in place a model to deliver the Local Outbreak Control Plan. The model is centrally co-ordinated by the Suffolk COVID-19 Coordination Centre (SC19CC).

All information (including outbreak notifications) and national guidance is received into the SC19CC. This enables a complete system overview and a co-ordinated response allowing tasks to be allocated to the most appropriate partners.

A number of enabler workstreams, including data, testing and contract tracing, have been identified which feed into the SC19CC to provide critical information to enable a timely response to an outbreak or key information to support preventive actions.

A number of delivery work programmes have also been established to identify complex settings, complex groups and complex individuals, complete risk assessments and develop preventative tools. They have also identified the most suitable Outbreak Manager and developed clear pathways, action cards and process to allow the SC19CC to provide a robust and resilient response to both prevention of outbreaks and management of outbreaks.

The Suffolk COVID-19 Co-ordination Centre (SC19CC) has oversight of the system and provides a co-ordination function to ensure the right information is shared with the right people.



The main objectives of the SC19CC are:

Provide central systemic co-ordination, expert advice and guidance in liaison with Public Health England (experts in managing infectious diseases) for COVID-19 outbreaks in Suffolk – the SC19CC will stand up the right people to respond.

- Provide expert advice on preventative measures to businesses and settings as per national and local guidance.
- Be able to draw on local expertise (Infection Prevention Control, Environmental Health, Public Health Specialists) and Outbreak Managers.
- Provide governance, leadership and strategic coordination for the local aspect of the NHS Test and Trace Contact Tracing function