

Kirklees Local Outbreak Management Plan

December 2021

Version 5.0

Final

Introduction

Kirklees has strong outbreak management arrangements in place, with robust local governance under the leadership of the Director of Public Health. These well-established outbreak management arrangements are underpinned by the Kirklees Outbreak Plan approved by Kirklees Health Protection Board. These arrangements are robust, effective, timely, and responsive, outlining clear roles and responsibilities of health and care services to manage outbreaks within a wide range of settings and population groups. This Kirklees Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan builds on the existing generic outbreak plan, scaling up and enhancing existing arrangements and services to meet the needs of local communities.

Document Feedback

This document is owned and managed by Kirklees Council Test and Trace. For all queries relating to this action plan please contact emergency.planning@kirklees.gov.uk or infection.control@kirklees.gov.uk

Background

Principles

The following principles guide our approach to developing and delivering the Kirklees Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan. The prevention and management of the transmission of Covid-19 should:

1. Be rooted in and led by public health.
2. Adopt a whole system approach.
3. Be delivered through an efficient and locally effective system.
4. Be sufficiently resourced, both financially and with expertise.

Local Outbreak Plan Requirements

As per national guidance, this Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan for Kirklees will address the following themes:

1. Higher-risk settings, communities, and locations.
2. Vulnerable and underserved communities, including the clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) and groups who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
3. Compliance and enforcement.
4. Governance.
5. Resourcing.
6. Communications and engagement, including community resilience.
7. Data integration and information sharing.

Local Outbreak Management Plan End to End Response

As required under national guidance, the Kirklees Local Outbreak Management Plan covers the following core aspects of the end-to-end Covid-19 response:

1. Surveillance.
2. Targeted community testing, local contact tracing, and support for self-isolation.
3. Outbreak management, including responding to variants.
4. Responding to enduring transmission, where appropriate.
5. Support for vaccine roll-out, plans to tackle disparities in vaccine uptake.

Kirklees Local Outbreak Management Plan

Aims

The aims of the Kirklees Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan are:

- Limit Covid-19 transmission to reduce infection.
- Minimise deaths (direct and indirect).
- Minimise the impact of Covid-19 on the sustained normal functioning of society via supporting of
- Minimise the impact of Covid-19 on health inequalities.
- Support the development of a sustainable and effective public health system.

We need to minimise and manage the spread of Covid-19, so the citizens of Kirklees feel safe to return to work, school and public places and restart the economy whilst living with Covid-19. Whilst Covid-19 can affect us all, some of us, due to our underlying health conditions or our individual circumstances, will be more vulnerable to its effects.

Governance

The legal responsibility for managing outbreaks of communicable disease which present a risk to the health of the public requiring urgent investigation and management sits with:

- PHE under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- Directors of Public Health under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- Chief Environmental Health Officers under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984.
- NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups to collaborate with Directors of Public Health and PHE to take local action (e.g., testing and treating) to assist the management of outbreaks under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- Other responder's specific responsibilities to respond to major incidents as part of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

In the context of Covid-19, this framework has been considerably modified by the provisions of and Central Government legislation and guidance issued under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

The Director of Public Health has, and retains primary responsibility for, the health of their local communities. This includes being assured that the arrangements to protect the health of the communities that they serve are robust and are implemented. The primary foundation of developing and deploying local outbreak management plans is the public health expertise of the local Director of Public Health.

Kirklees Local Outbreak Management Action Plan

The following identifies how Kirklees will address the main themes identified above which are required to be considered as part of the areas outbreak response to Covid-19. The following also more generally feed into the support of local needs and the wider regional and national responses in the fight towards controlling the spread and impact of Covid-19 within Kirklees. (**Note:** *These measures are ever evolving and monitored/adapted as required based on a risk assessment maintained by Kirklees Test and Trace*):

| Area of Focus | Detail |
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| Surveillance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of 111 and school attendance data as a potential indicator of where and when we might see future cases and outbreaks. • Analysis of the common exposure, postcode of coincidence, and Health Protection Zone outbreak data to identify themes of transmission and early identification of outbreaks/clusters. • Use of shared Covid-19 datasets, predictive modelling, and analytical work to lead intelligence and surveillance workstreams. • Sharing of surveillance data with the public: |

| Area of Focus | Detail |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current outbreak picture within Kirklees - Tableau Public ○ Test and Trace data: Weekly statistics for NHS Test and Trace (England) |
| <p>Targeted community testing, local contact tracing, and support for self-isolation:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Testing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Symptomatic (https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/covid19-test-and-trace.aspx, the walkthrough sites do not require appointments) and asymptomatic (https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/) testing sites available in locations across Kirklees. ● Kirklees supports the national universal asymptomatic test kit collection scheme, with a number of sites supplying testing kits for households. Some sites will require testing kits to be pre-ordered before collection (more details here: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/) ● Process in place via the Director of Public Health to dynamically apply for testing units to specific premises or areas where there is specific concerns in order to support more targeted testing. ● Targeted asymptomatic testing: The Council has a team in place working with local businesses, as well as underserved populations and other areas of the community with testing access issues who are identified as priority groups based on criteria designated by the Department of Health and Social Care. This targeting considers groups that are most impacted by the Covid-19 virus and those least likely to be reached through national channels. ● Mobile/agile testing unit: Kirklees has a mobile/agile unit that can attend smaller setting to carry out testing. This is deployed on an intelligence led basis based on case numbers. ● Surge/enhanced testing (as and when needed): please see the “outbreak management” section for more details on this.) ● System of bilingual staff and interpretation services in place to support communications with those whose first language is not English. Testing directions are made available in translated options in the appropriate languages to Kirklees most spoken. ● Public Health commissioned testing with community providers for small outbreaks and asymptomatic tests for individuals that require a test prior to respite care/ care home admission from own home. |
| <p>Targeted community testing, local contact tracing, and support for self-isolation:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Tracing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local system in place to support national contact tracing, in partnership with Wakefield Council. ● Local contact tracing has clear routes of escalation in place concerning any issues identified from contact tracing that may compromise welfare and safety of those isolating (e.g., reports of domestic violence, support for isolation). ● Agreed shared ways of working across Yorkshire and Humber. ● Work in line with the national team advised process to ensure cases are contacted in a timely manner. ● Support any enhanced contact tracing in the event of variants of concern being activated to best ensure testing of contacts is carried out as per national guidance. |
| <p>Targeted community testing, local contact tracing, and support for self-isolation:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Self-Isolation Support</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advice service in place to assist anyone with financial concerns if they are required to self-isolate. ○ Online portal provided for access to test and trace support payment for those isolating and meeting the relevant criteria (https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/covid19-apply-for-a-test-and-trace-support-payment.aspx). |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online portal access to application forms for Covid-19 financial support to businesses (https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/coronavirus-businesses-and-self-employed.aspx) ● Welfare support in place to help provide access to food, medications and other essentials to those who cannot access them in other ways during their isolation (https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/advice-support-and-sharing/covid-19-community-response.aspx) ● Support to schools around access to free school meals and electronics to support home learning. This ensures those with vulnerabilities or needs during isolation can be appropriately supported. ● Awareness of location of, and workstream links in place to support, complex settings to work with these hard to reach and vulnerable members of the community within those directly. ● Links from responding organisations into local community support and faith organisations to ensure relevant support and welfare becomes known and who can assist in addressing. ● Relationships with and support in place from community and voluntary sector. ● Sign posting and support in place for those requiring assistance with regards to their mental health. ● Relationships with the wider health system to appropriately support those with chronic issues and increased medical needs. ● System of bilingual staff and interpretation services in place to support communications with those whose first language is not English. Where communications are written translated options will be made available in the appropriate languages. |
| <p>Outbreak management, including responding to variants</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kirklees Test and Trace structure in place, with political oversight via the Outbreak Control Board. ● System wide approach via a strategic multi-agency partnership. ● Agreed shared ways of working across Yorkshire and Humber. ● Surge/enhanced testing plan in place and tested in the event of variant of concern/investigation. This is reviewed post activations as appropriate. This will support, as appropriate, any contact testing requirements which may be enhanced based on usual measures. ● Enforcement plans and arrangements in place in line with current legislation. This is overseen by the Council Environmental Health Team in close liaison with other partners (e.g., Police). ● Council chaired Incident Management Team in place to help deliver and support any identified and required local interventions. This is made up of multi-agency partners including: Public Health England and local health organisation representatives. This Team carries out dynamic risk assessments on current outbreaks causing concern and offers the relevant advice and enforcements concerning those outbreaks working closely with any businesses or settings involved in these outbreaks to achieve the most effective outcome for them and their local communities. ● 24/7 advice line for schools to contact for further advice and assurance. ● Online schools reporting system for positive cases within schools and how many are affected by this. This enables the monitoring teams to identify any possible outbreaks of clusters connected to the school to allow intervention at the earliest point. ● Community engagement officers and covid community support officers are in place to help support and advice and assure communities and business |

| Area of Focus | Detail |
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| | <p>within those communities with regards to Covid-19 safety and what is available to help them if needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Strategy and Protocol in place. Focus on both prevailing needs for infection prevention control messages and community recovery (learning to live with covid-19). • Covid-19 risk assessments are part of standard health and safety risk assessments, in line with Working Safely During Covid-19 Guidance (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19). • Recovery plans (organisational and community) in place and reviewed regularly with a focus to rebuild in both a Covid-safe manner. • Development of a training programme for community champions, alongside input from the university on behaviour change to encourage a more Covid-safe mindset throughout communities. • System wide approach to supporting the National Government response, restoration and recovery from Covid-19. Within this we have localised arrangements to ensure that we can also respond, restore, and recover. • System pathways in place for Long-Covid. Further to this there is monitoring and investigation of the longer-term impacts of Covid-19. • Working with, and support from, voluntary and third sector. • Support of implementation of national restrictions as they are updated and amended. • Encouragement of the use of facemasks, promoting this via posters in public Council facilities (current face mask guidance can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own) |
| Responding to enduring transmission, where appropriate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work streams are in place (both single and multi-agency) to ensure we can learn to live with Covid-19 by ensuring we are able to respond to future outbreaks and clusters (see outbreak management section) as per other communicable diseases as scientists predict Covid-19 will become endemic like many other illnesses impacting the UK. • Working together at place level to reduce transmission, this may include work with faith groups, local community groups, and voluntary/third sector. • Responders across Kirklees have Business Continuity Plans in place to maintain, as a minimum, their most critical functions in the event of any outbreaks/clusters impacting service delivery. • As per business as usual, the Council has advice online for local businesses concerning their own business continuity arrangements (either via a 10-minute plan or a full template) along with contact details to discuss business continuity further. • Sign posting and support in place for those requiring assistance with regards to their mental health. • Relationships with the wider health system to appropriately support those with chronic issues, those requiring additional support post hospital discharge, those whose conditions have worsened whereby requiring additional/new interventions, etc. • Enhanced provision of housing support via business-as-usual methods. • Maintain appropriate testing capabilities, support packages and reporting mechanisms, regularly reviewing and amending to meet changes and needs as appropriate. • Continuing social media and public messaging. |

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| Support for vaccine roll-out, plans to tackle disparities in vaccine uptake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the ongoing roll out of vaccine (including the booster programme) in Kirklees, in partnership with the NHS. A strong multi-agency partnership is in place overseeing and managing the roll out of vaccines, including local vaccination sites and roving vaccination roadshow programmes. • Created space for conversations with Kirklees Council employee health care for people who work for the Council who are concerned about the vaccination • Community Champions project works with residents who are disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 to build confidence in testing and the vaccine programme and address vaccine hesitancy. • Input into BAME staff networks, Friday Prayers (Mosques), and supported by community pharmacy to develop confidence to both chose the vaccine for themselves and to encourage others to do the same. • Question and answer sessions with vulnerable sectors of the community. • System wide approach to vaccine hesitancy. • Equality Impact Assessment in place. |

Plan Assurance

To ensure that this plan can deal with the reasonable worst-case scenario (including multiple outbreaks, variants of concern, across varying workplaces, and within vulnerable groups which may lead to a high volume of hospitalisation and death) it is created in liaison with, and under consultation with, a wide range of partners.

To ensure it remains fit for purpose it is under constant review, with a risk assessment in place to drive this, based on dynamic situational changes and learning from incidents in our own area but also in other areas across West Yorkshire, and within wider England regions.