

Stockport Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan *Summary Version*

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1. Introduction

England has experienced a large epidemic of Covid-19 that has led to considerable loss of life. While stringent social distancing measures have reduced the level of infection, they impose a large burden on individuals, families, communities and the economy. The vast majority of the population remains susceptible to the virus, hence the potential remains for a large epidemic if these restrictions are lifted completely.

Contact tracing and outbreak management are essential tools in limiting the spread of infectious diseases. Effective tracing and isolation of people exposed to Covid-19 can reduce the spread of infection and may allow for greater relaxation of social distancing requirements than would otherwise be possible. The Stockport Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan outlines how we will collectively control the spread of the virus, to reduce the incidence and impact of Covid-19 within our communities, at the Stockport level.

2. Aims and objectives

2.1 Aim

The aim of this plan is to set out the multi-agency operational arrangements for preventing, minimising, responding to outbreaks of Covid-19 within the borough of Stockport.

2.2 Objectives

- To set out the approaches to preventing outbreaks of Covid-19 in Stockport.
- To set out the roles and responsibilities of Stockport's multi-agency response to identifying and managing outbreaks that occur in Stockport.
- To set out our approach in relation to the Greater Manchester arrangements.
- To establish and outline the governance arrangements to oversee the Stockport Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan and the operation thereof.

2.3 Design principles

We will use the [Guiding Principles for Effective Management of Covid-19 at a Local Level](#) in the development and implementation of our Stockport Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan.

3. The National and Greater Manchester Context

The UK Government has set out four key strands to the national approach to tackling Covid-19: test; trace; contain; and enable. The local planning and response will be key to the success of this system, with local government having a key role to play in identification and management to contain the spread of infection.

Local authorities and systems will be involved where their support is needed in managing complex cases or outbreaks, and in providing support to individuals and settings that have been affected by COVID-19. This might include supporting people who have been told to isolate, or managing the consequences of closing a particular setting, such as a school or GP practice. As well as playing its part in the Greater Manchester contact tracing system, Stockport needs a system that can respond to outbreaks and situations without relying on notification from the national or regional system. This will allow a faster response to emerging outbreaks, and where necessary, upward escalation to the GM ICTH.

4. Stockport approach

Outbreak management, and contact tracing within it are part of a cycle of health protection action which starts from surveillance and epidemiology (reports of infection) through evidence of what is effective, the rapid formulation of actions, their implementation (requiring capabilities from many agencies in large outbreaks), assurance and evaluation and finally iteration as needed to prevent, suppress and reduce outbreaks of infection. This cycle remains the same regardless of setting. Each of these actions are necessary to manage outbreaks, even if they are extremely rapid in execution in practice. Contact tracing can be both a part of surveillance/epidemiology on local outbreaks and a tool for implementing outbreak control.

Our approach in Stockport is first and foremost prevention of outbreaks. Where outbreaks do occur, we will act swiftly with all available data and intelligence to minimise the impact of any occurring outbreaks.

4.1 Preventing outbreaks

The first principle of infection prevention and control is prevention. In working to prevent outbreaks occurring in Stockport, a key aspect is our communication work. We must clearly communicate and engage with the public; key communities and settings; employers and local businesses, to help share an understanding of what works in reducing outbreaks occurring.

This messaging will focus on:

The importance of isolating if unwell. In breaking the chain of transmission, and therefore reducing the likelihood of outbreaks occurring, anyone with relevant symptoms, no matter how mild, should be encouraged and supported to self-isolate at home with their household immediately from the moment they become unwell. (Relevant National Guidance: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#))

Testing. Anyone who becomes unwell and begins isolation should immediately arrange to undertake a test. (See [4.2 for testing arrangements](#)).

Social distancing/don't be a contact. Maintaining an appropriate physical distancing when out of the home, wherever possible, ensures that you are both minimising the risk to yourself and to others – i.e. don't be a contact. (Relevant National Guidance: [Staying safe outside your home](#))

Hand/cough hygiene. Handwashing regularly and thoroughly will help break the chain of transmission and reduce the spread of Covid-19. Coughing and sneezing into a tissue or your elbow is also a key element of reducing spread.

Contact tracing and isolation. Identifying contacts of those known as confirmed cases of Covid-19 and isolating these known contacts prior to onset of any symptoms is a vital step in breaking the chain of transmission. We need to support our residents to understand the importance of isolating if they are identified as a contact, as most will have no symptoms at

the point they are identified. (Relevant National Guidance: [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person](#))

Infection prevention and control. Specific infection prevention and control advice to different settings is available and should be followed at all times to reduce any potential spread of Covid-19.

4.2 Testing arrangements

All residents are eligible for antigen testing if they have coronavirus symptoms. Anyone who is symptomatic should self-isolate immediately and arrange a test for covid-19. To arrange a test, people can either:

- Email testing@stockport.gov.uk
- Visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Ring 119

4.3 Contact tracing in complex settings

The contact tracing system in England is made up of three operational tiers:

- Tier 3 consists of call handlers who speak to contacts of confirmed cases and advise them to isolate;
- Tier 2 consists of case handlers who interview confirmed cases of Covid-19 to identify their contacts; and
- Tier 1b is an integrated regional and local system to deal with contact tracing and outbreak management in complex settings.
- Tier 1a provides strategic oversight of the whole system and sets guidance and policies.

Stockport forms part of the Greater Manchester (GM) Tier 1b system. Within Tier 1b, most contact tracing is expected to be done by the Greater Manchester Integrated Contact Tracing Hub (GM ICTH). Local authorities and systems will be involved where their support is needed in managing complex cases or outbreaks, and in providing support to individuals and settings that have been affected by COVID-19. This might include supporting people who have been told to isolate, or managing the consequences of closing a particular setting, such as a school or GP practice.

Stockport Single Point of Contact

As part of the preventative approach to the control and management of Covid-19 in Stockport, a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) has been established to interface with the GM Contact Tracing Hub. This acts as a point of contact for two-way communication with the GM hub and Public Health England to escalate cases and situations where they are identified both by the national Test and Trace system, and locality intelligence.

The Stockport SPOC:

- Tel: 0161 474 2437
- Email: contact.tracing@stockport.gov.uk
- Hours: 09:00-17:00 Monday – Friday
(out of hours calls should be directed to PHE North West 0151 434 4819)

4.4 High risk workplaces, communities and settings

We are engaging with the local business community to help us identifying higher risk workplaces and settings. We are learning from outbreaks in other countries and other parts of the UK, to identify the more vulnerable settings.

We will also provide consequence management support to these settings, communities and individuals. For each setting we have identified a lead officer and relevant SOP. The lead officers are being supported with training and guidance. The lead officers will act as key contacts to support the settings and the contact tracers.

4.5 Care homes, schools and early years settings

4.5.1 Care homes

We have been working hard to support our care providers to continue to provide a strong continuity of care and resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. An Infection Prevention & Control Strategy for COVID-19 in Care Homes in Stockport is being developed, a number of key actions have already been completed and the strategy is accompanied by an Assurance Framework Tool for use in care homes, in addition to home care and extra care. In addition, Infection Protection Control (IPC) training is being provided by the Local Authority Health Protection Team based within Public Health, together with senior CCG nursing clinician advice to roll out IPC training across the homes in Stockport. These have been a series of well-attended webinars for care home staff training to gain practical knowledge on best practice, specific procedures and a chance to ask question / seek advice.

Further detail about the support provided to our care homes to date, can be found on the council website: www.stockport.gov.uk/care-home-support-during-covid-19

4.5.2 Schools and early years settings

We have been working closely with our schools and early years settings throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. We will continue to work closely to support schools and settings to support with any outbreaks that arise in these settings. Scenario planning has been undertaken, infection prevention and control advice has been provided and an SOP for what to do in the event of identification of a case or outbreak is being made available.

4.6 Vulnerable people

Supporting vulnerable adults/families who are required to self-isolate, with necessary humanitarian aid and other essential support, has been an ongoing consequence of the pandemic.

Stockport has an established Hub which will remain the primary route for people to access humanitarian assistance locally and will lever in and help to coordinate local multi-agency, cross-sectoral responses which will meet diverse and emerging needs. Individuals may be directed to the hub if they require any support with the self-isolation requirements as part of our outbreak management. This may be through self-referral or may include being directed to the Hub by NHS Test and Trace; the GMICHT; the Stockport SPOC; or the lead officers for complex setting consequence management.

Stockport Coronavirus Support Hub:

- Telephone: 0161 217 6046
- Online: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/coronavirus-help-vulnerable-people>
- Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am – 5pm; Fri 9am – 4.30pm and Sat from 10am – 1pm. *The online form can be completed and submitted at any time.*

4.7 Our data

Data and intelligence will be used to support all aspects of this plan:

- Needs and risk assessment to identify settings and vulnerable groups where preventative work and messaging should be targeted
- Monitoring and review of daily data, on testing and tracing from both national and local sources
- Establishing an information system to support the management of outbreaks
- Keeping up to date with the developing national and international evidence base about the epidemiology, inequality and other trends for Covid-19

4.8 Our Local Boards and their support systems

To oversee and deliver on this plan, the governance will be arranged through the establishment of two new boards. This will supplement the existing arrangement of our Tactical Coordination Group and Strategic Coordination Group.

Stockport COVID-19 Health Protection Board

A multi agency board, based on a revision of the membership of current Stockport's Health Protection Forum, chaired by the Director of Public Health. This board will focus on co-ordination of key health protection elements relating to Covid-19.

COVID-19 Outbreak Management and Engagement Board

Co-chaired by Member and TCG Chair, this board will focus on communication and engagement with the general public, to develop local support to implementing the steps necessary to reduce the risk of spread of covid-19.

5. Reporting, escalation and risk management

5.1 Local Outbreak Control Team

If a situation arises where there is concern that an outbreak is growing, the Director of Public Health or representative, or the Consultant in Communicable Disease Control at the GMICHT may call an Outbreak Control Team. The purpose of an OCT is to agree and coordinate the activities of the agencies involved in the investigation and control of an outbreak in order to assess the risk to the public's health and ensure that control measures are implemented as soon as possible and, if required, legal advice sought.

6. Our resources and how we will use them

Local Authorities have been awarded £600million for the test and trace programme. Stockport has an allocation of £1,473,704.

Likely commitments:

- Contribution to GM Integrated Contact Tracing Hub
- Increased staffing requirements
- Possible contribution to local testing arrangements
- Comms and marketing
- Community engagement and support
- Data processors

Appendix - Glossary of Terms

CCDC	Consultant in Communicable Disease Control
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CHP	Consultant in Health Protection
DPH	Director of Public Health
FIO	Forward Incident Officer
FT	Foundation Trust
GM	Greater Manchester
GMICTH	Greater Manchester Integrated Contact Tracing Hub
HCAIs	Health Care Associated Infections
HP	Health Protection
HP&COI	Health Protection & Control of Infection
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
LCT	Local Co-ordination Group
LOCT	Local Outbreak Control Team
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
OCT	Outbreak Control Team
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PGD	Patient Group Direction
PHE	Public Health England
PHEC	Public Health England Centre
SCG	Strategic Coordination Group
SMBC	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
SNHSFT	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust
SPOC	Single point of contact
TCG	Tactical Coordination Group
VCSE	Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises