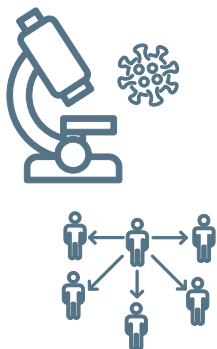


The National Test and Trace service

Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Beacon

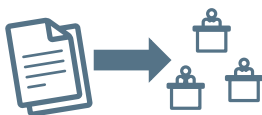
Together Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council alongside the West Midlands Combined Authority were selected to take part in the early roll out of the Government's new £300 million Test and Trace Programme. Our sub-regional Beacon programme is one of 11 across the country aiming to accelerate the development of their Outbreak Control Plans. The Plans set out how we will work with Public Health England (West Midlands) and the NHS as well as ensuring that our local systems are geared up to contain the virus should an outbreak occur. The Beacons will share their best practice and lessons learned so that other local authorities can benefit when bringing online their own plans.



The Test and Trace service is designed to control the spread of COVID-19 by using data to identify local outbreaks, and tracing people who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The Government has recruited an extra 25,000 people to increase testing and diagnosis capacity and trace people who may have been infected by a person who tests positive for COVID-19. A smartphone App is currently being developed and is intended to speed up the process of identifying people who have been in contact with an infected person. The App will enable the national Test and Trace service to reach higher numbers of people quickly using dedicated staff for testing and tracing.



The Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Beacon is producing a single Outbreak Control Plan which will be published at the end of June. The Plan identifies a set of priorities which encompass measures to both prevent and control infection as well as target vulnerable people and high-risk settings. Our approach, which is already operational, will link closely to the regional testing programme and use local and national data (from the new Joint Biosecurity Centre) to swiftly target testing, contact tracing resources, and local outbreak management measures to contain outbreaks at the earliest stage.



Our Outbreak Control Plan will be implemented by the multi-agency Health Protection Boards which operate in each of the 3 authority areas, and will adapt to respond in ways that meet specific local needs.



A Councillor-led Test and Trace Sub-regional Advisory Board has been convened to oversee the Beacon work, with Member-led Boards operating in each Local Authority area, facilitating public engagement.



For more information on the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Beacon Programme please contact newsteam@warwickshire.gov.uk