



The National Test and Trace service – Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Beacon

Briefing note to Members, week ending 3 July 2020

Beacon update

Our sub-regional programme has been pleased to welcome Warwickshire's two military planners to join the team in upscaling our planning and operational responses on Test and Trace this week. Lt. Chris Haydock and Flight Officer Jasper Chamberlain are working with us throughout July, and in the first instance are looking at mobile testing units (MTUs) and how we can make best use of our access to them. They have been to Donington Barracks this week to make direct contact with the teams who will supply the MTUs for our sub-region. They have also been engaging with military colleagues in Leicester to understand how the lockdown was mobilised, and review what we can learn and develop in the event of an emergency situation in our sub-region.

We are also developing plans for hyper-local testing to enhance the offer from Mobile Testing Units, working with local NHS partners. This would give a flexible response to respond to smaller outbreaks or where there are specific access issue.

The teams continue to support the management of a range of localised outbreaks and issues and to support schools, care homes and businesses to put in place the right steps to prevent outbreaks. This is an essential part of the programme, alongside careful daily surveillance to spot issues early particularly as on-going measures to reduce lockdown are introduced.

We are also expecting the release of local testing data into the public domain nationally, including tests carried out in the community which will be a key step in transparency.

In collaboration with a Coventry rap artist Aaron Woodhouse, we have produced a rap video to target prevention messages at young people. ['Raise The Awareness'](#) shares key messages about hygiene, social distancing, and the importance of protecting loved ones from virus transmission.

On 30 June we launched our sub-regional microsite, ['Stay Safe CSW'](#) to host our outbreak control and local implementation plans. The site will be in continuous development for a period of time because of the rapid escalation of the Test and Trace programme. We will be adding some 'frequently asked questions' soon, along with materials and information that people can use to support prevention activity.

We have updated and signed off our standard operating procedure with Public Health England to agree how we will work together on Test and Trace and outbreak management. This is a living document that we will revise as we go.

CSW Outbreak Control Plan and local implementation

All outbreak control plans were reviewed over the last fortnight by a Convenor on behalf of the national programme. We received positive feedback on our plan and have been recognised as an example of best practice for our partnership approach. The plan was accepted by all the local health protection boards, the local Member-led Boards and the Sub-regional Advisory Board over the last week. We are now continuing with expanding the local implementation plans to secure our responses to outbreaks as they occur.

An out of hours response by the 3 Public Health teams is being explored, to understand the potential to share consultant capacity so that outbreaks identified out of hours are still able to be actioned by local teams.

Communications and engagement

We have continued to extend our communications around Test and Trace, including press materials to announce our outbreak control plan. The local Communications Teams have developed and are delivering localised approaches to communication of the programme and prevention messages. [New material from the Public Health England](#) was made available on 1 July and we will be using it in line with our local campaigns.

We have produced a draft protocol to be used in notifying partners and key stakeholders about outbreaks at the earliest opportunity. The protocol and notifications will be used by Directors of Public Health and health protection board leads to inform partners of instances of 2, grouped, positive test results and set out the steps that will be taken to manage the outbreak.

Coventry is leading on behalf of the Beacon on an 'engagement and participation' cell. The cell will be responsible for developing and delivering locally focused community engagement to build understanding and support of the test and trace service and encourage high levels of trust in and compliance with the process. The cell will report into Coventry's health protection mobilisation group to ensure very close working with the operational elements of Test and trace. Community engagement activity is being carried out in Solihull and Warwickshire already, but will evolve as learning is shared by the Coventry cell.

Priority actions

- Refine action cards to shape setting-specific responses to outbreaks
- Further develop the risk register
- Learn from the Leicester lockdown and establish a local mechanism to handle an emergency situation anywhere in the sub-region

Meetings taking place next week (6 to 10 July)

- 6 July 2020 Joint Health Protection Response Group (every Monday)
- 9 July 2020 Warwickshire Health Protection Board
- 10 July 2020 Coventry Members Panel Update