

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

### HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

#### COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

##### 1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 Progress update against each of the 7 themes in the North Lincolnshire Outbreak Prevention & Management Plan
- 1.2 Key areas of focus for the outbreak prevention and management in North Lincolnshire for the forthcoming period
- 1.3 Outline of North Lincolnshire's position in relation to risk alert level and restrictions imposed

##### 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council is committed to working with our local people to keep them safe, well, prosperous and connected. Successful prevention and management of local outbreaks is vital to break the chains of COVID- 19 transmission and enable people to return to and maintain a more normal way of life.
- 2.2 New national restrictions were introduced on 5 November 2020. These new measures will apply nationally for four weeks up to Wednesday 2 December. At the end of the period, the government will look to return to a regional approach based on the latest data. At the point of the national restrictions being introduced North Lincolnshire was in the alert level 'high' tier. Appendix 1 sets out the timeline of national/local restrictions and provides a high-level summary of each alert level.
- 2.3 North Lincolnshire Council is the lead organisation for local outbreak prevention and management, within a national framework and with the support of NHS Test and Trace, PHE and other government departments.
- 2.4 The North Lincolnshire Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan sets out our collaborative and preventive approach and we continue to monitor case data on a daily basis and target resources as appropriate to prevent and reduce transmission across the area. The plan is reviewed accordingly and appendix 2 details revised governance arrangements which reflects the changing operational practice.
- 2.5 **Progress update** - A summary of the progress made to date against each of the seven key themes in the North Lincolnshire Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan is given below.

## Care Homes

- Cases of COVID-19 in care home settings are monitored daily, and outbreaks managed via the multi-agency Care Home Oversight Group.
- Care homes are being supported to maintain safe visiting in line with the national guidance. New national guidance for visiting arrangements in care homes for the period of national restrictions published 5 November 2020.
- Weekly email communication promoting relevant guidance and information.
- Timely distribution of the Infection Control Fund to care home providers.
- Care home providers have been supported to understand and implement the actions for providers from the winter plan for adult social care.
- The North Lincolnshire care home support plan has been updated and incorporates the additional requirements of the winter plan and published on our website [North Lincolnshire support for care homes](#).
- A North Lincolnshire Proud to Care North media and recruitment campaign launched in October 2020.

## Education settings

- All education settings across North Lincolnshire remain open
- An increasing number of enquiries are being received from educational settings, this has required additional resourcing to manage demand
- Briefings continue to be delivered to school leadership teams, including bespoke advice by the infection prevention & control nurse

## High-risk workplaces, communities and locations

- Pro-active preventative infection control advice and guidance is in place for most high-risk settings
- A number of local outbreaks have been successfully managed and a single system and process for responding to case notifications has been established
- A number of newsletters have been sent to businesses and regular communication in place

## Local testing

- Local testing capacity continues to improve
- A new walk-in (by appointment only) testing site has been set up in Scunthorpe (The Pods overflow car park)
- The testing site at the Humber Bridge extended until March 2021
- Additional deployment of swabs to schools has been actioned
- Mobile testing units (MTU's) have been deployed locally to support outbreaks

## Contact tracing

- Joint arrangement for a local Contact Tracing Service agreed with North East Lincolnshire Council. This service picks up the cases and contacts that the national Test & Trace service have been unable to contact within the first 24hrs.
- Programme board, agreed process and induction training is in place.
- Job descriptions and structure for contact tracing team has been agreed.
- Local contact tracing arrangements went live 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## **Data integration**

- Soft intelligence is being collated and trend data on vulnerable groups is being analysed to inform targeted actions
- Revised data sharing agreement to secure access to CTAS/PHE has been signed off
- Case Management System is in place to manage notifications, IMTs and case management.
- Working with the public health intelligence team to add in the line list data to provide a more secure location for matching and analysis.
- Overall the CCM is providing a secure IG compliant location for Covid related data to person level.

## **Vulnerable people and diverse communities**

- Targeted communications are ongoing to promote compliance with self-isolation, social distancing and other preventative behaviours.
- A system has been launched for payment of grants for anybody required to self-isolate experiencing hardship
- Vulnerable groups have been surveyed locally regarding their experiences and barriers faced
- The MHCLG Shielding Self-assessment Tool has been completed and we are confident in the organisational readiness to stand up shielding if required
- The voluntary sector are also supporting with coordination of volunteers to help people in need

## **2.6 Next steps - Key areas of focus for the outbreak prevention and management in North Lincolnshire for the forthcoming months.**

### **Care Homes**

- Facilitate and encourage those who are eligible for a free flu vaccine to access one
- Care homes will be supported to carry out learning reviews after each outbreak
- Full implementation of Enhanced Care in Care Homes with a named clinical lead for each care home and multidisciplinary support

### **Education settings**

- Improvements are required to reporting arrangements to ensure notifications from settings to the local authority are clear, robust and accurate
- Complex care case management system to be launched providing clarity of information and level of outbreaks in settings so swift action can be taken as necessary

### **High-risk workplaces, communities and locations**

- An enhanced package of support for businesses/wider settings such as webinars, educational materials and regular communications in development
- Work has been done on a risk stratification ensuring that key workplaces, HMO's are monitored on a regular basis. Spatial analysis is being utilised to check COVID cases against mapped high-risk settings.

## **Local testing**

- Flexible swab capacity via mutual aid agreement with North Yorkshire to be utilized if required for special circumstances
- Secure an additional drive-in testing site for North Lincolnshire
- Plan implementation of mass testing using new rapid testing technologies, considering learning from Liverpool and other pilot sites, logistics, modelling impact, reviewing sensitivity and specificity of the new tests.

## **Contact tracing**

- Stop Go with PHE took place on 6 November 2020
- Go-live date 11 November 2020
- 22 staff have been trained to date.

## **Data integration**

- Continued development of the Complex Case Management System
- Dashboard to be used to identify clusters and where intervention is required will be developed
- Training is required on the system so line list analysis can be undertaken and documented

## **Vulnerable people and diverse communities**

- An integrated preventative approach is to be adopted to facilitate targeted communications and community approach to support prevention
- There will be continued consistent messaging and accessible in appropriate formats to all communities
- Free personal protective equipment (PPE) will be distributed to the providers of low level care/support not eligible for the national portal, when required until March 2021. This includes people who use direct payments to employ a personal assistant and housing providers where they carry out close contact support.

## **2.7 Update on risk alert level and restrictions**

- 2.7.1 At the end of the period of national restrictions, it is expected local authorities will return to a regional approach, based on the latest epidemiological data. In preparation for exiting this four-week period, it is essential that we continue to monitor local epidemiology to consider the impact of the new restrictions on the spread of COVID-19 across North Lincolnshire. In order to do this, we will be closely assessing a number of key measures published by Public Health England and the Joint Biosecurity Centre.
- 2.7.2 In conjunction with Public Health England and the Joint Biosecurity Centre the analysis of the data will be used to dynamically assess North Lincolnshire's epidemiological position against neighbouring authorities, regional authorities and the national comparisons. This will inform decision-making regarding the COVID alert level which North Lincolnshire would return to after the period of new national restrictions ends.

### **3.0 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the report and note the work undertaken to date by the Health Protection and Outbreak Management Group, and the planned next steps to ensure we prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 and respond effectively and early to emerging outbreaks.

### **4.0 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Successful prevention and management of local outbreaks is vital to break the chains of COVID-19 transmission and enable people to return to and maintain a more normal way of life.
- 4.2 The revised governance appendix streamlines the tiers of reporting established in June and removes duplication whilst conserving a line of sight to the lead cabinet member for health protection and establishes a more frequent reporting to and membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 Financial implications associated with the councils Covid-19 response and recovery are being monitored

### **6.0 OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.**

- 6.1 Implications and risks associated with Covid-19 are being monitored constantly and mitigations being implemented as necessary.

### **7.0 OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 7.1 A council-wide approach to assessing the impact of Covid-19 has been adopted.

### **8.0 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 8.1 Ongoing consultation with a range of partners and key stakeholders are integral to our local response to Covid-19.

### **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the Outbreak Prevention and Management activity as outlined in the report.

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SCUNTHORPE

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**Date:** 5 November 2020

## Appendix 1 – Timeline of National and Local Restrictions

### 12 October 2020

- Three tiered local Covid Alert Level system introduced

- North Lincolnshire Council was initially placed into **MEDIUM** alert level

### 31 October 2020

- North Lincolnshire Council was moved into **HIGH** alert level

**LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL MEDIUM**

**Social Contact**  
Restrict all indoor and outdoor activities. Only go to shops for essential and food shopping, online and contact deliveries.

**Weddings and Funerals**  
Only go to funerals and weddings for immediate family and other essential circumstances.

**Overnight Stays**  
Close all stays permitted subject to essential circumstances.

**Working from home guidance**  
Work from home where possible.

**Shopping and Retail**  
Open.

**Leisure and gyms**  
Open.

**Hospitality**  
Close all open hospitality including those serving food and take away only.

**Entertainment and tourist attractions**  
Close, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.

**Education**  
Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must adjust activities to ensure safety.

**Healthcare Services**  
Open.

**Residential Care**  
Open to essential visitors with additional precautions, subject to individual care provider guidance.

**Travel and Transport**  
No travel restrictions subject to usual travel rules and COVID Alert Level. Only carry high value where possible.

**Sporting Activity**  
Organised group events, private and/or club events, walking, fitness, outdoor sports, team sports, and other outdoor sports. Must be outdoors and follow public health advice.

**Worship**  
Open, subject to local contact rules.

**Childcare**  
Restricted and organised childcare open. Supervised and fully permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted.

**Youth Clubs and Activities**  
Permitted.

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:

- Wash hands** - Keep washing your hands regularly.
- Cover face** - Wear a face covering in enclosed spaces.
- Make space** - Stay at least 2 metres apart, or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions.

**LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL HIGH**

**Social Contact**  
Restrict all indoor and outdoor activities. Only go to shops for essential and food shopping for essential circumstances.

**Weddings and Funerals**  
Only go to funerals and weddings for immediate family and other essential circumstances.

**Overnight Stays**  
Close all stays permitted subject to essential circumstances.

**Working from home guidance**  
Work from home where possible.

**Shopping and Retail**  
Open.

**Leisure and gyms**  
Open, except swimming pools, including those serving food and take away only.

**Hospitality**  
Open, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.

**Entertainment and tourist attractions**  
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**LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL VERY HIGH**

**Social Contact**  
Restrict all indoor and outdoor activities. Only go to shops for essential and food shopping for essential circumstances.

**Weddings and Funerals**  
Only go to funerals and weddings for immediate family and other essential circumstances.

**Overnight Stays**  
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**5 November 2020**

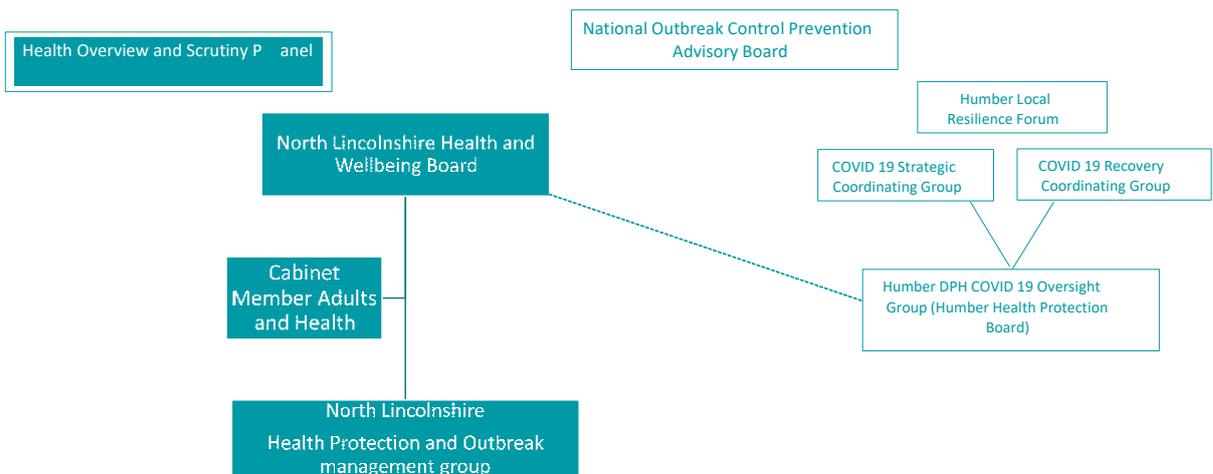
National restrictions were introduced. These are due to expire on the 2 December 2020



## Appendix 2 – North Lincolnshire Council Local Outbreak Prevention and Control Governance Arrangements

This section describes the governance arrangements for overseeing the effective implementation and monitoring of outbreak control and prevention. The diagram below shows how North Lincolnshire works in concordat with current Humber-wide LRF. The Humber-wide COVID coordinating groups which report into North Lincolnshire's local executive arrangements. Information about the roles and responsibilities of North Lincolnshire's local executive arrangements are provided below:

**North Lincolnshire Council**



## **Health and Wellbeing Board**

Health and Wellbeing Boards are a forum where leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. Locally, the Health and Wellbeing Board is an integral part of the cycle of health protection action and has been designated as the 'LA COVID 19 Member-Led Engagement Board' as required in the Local Outbreak Plan governance structures.

The North Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board is the member led, democratically accountable body, strategically placed to ensure and enable public engagement and communication in respect of the prevention of outbreaks and the response to local outbreaks. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board include:

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Cabinet Member Children and Families
- Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council
- Deputy Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council
- Chair of NL Clinical Commissioning Group
- Accountable Officer, Clinical Commissioning Group
- Director Nursing and Quality, Clinical Commissioning Group
- Director of Public Health
- Director of Adults and Community Wellbeing
- Director of Children and Community Resilience
- Representative of NL Healthwatch
- Senior representation from: Humberside Police; Humberside Fire and Rescue; Northern Lincolnshire & Goole NHS Foundation Trust; Rotherham, Doncaster & South Humber NHS Foundation Trust; Public Health England and NHS England / NHS Improvement

## **Role of the Health and Wellbeing board in respect of COVID-19 Outbreak Management and Control**

- Provide strategic oversight of the place-based response to and ensures it is community focus and appropriately tailored to local circumstances.
- Agree a communications strategy and promote relevant community prevention messages
- To ensure that there is local interface with regional and national response through the Humber Local Resilience Forum arrangements.
- Monitor response to local outbreaks and ensure learning is taken into health protection cycle.
- Contribute to the wider system on policy work streams in respect of recovery and renewal.
- Have an overview on the allocation of resources in respect of outbreak management and control for effective implementation of the delivery plan.

The **Director of Public Health** has primary responsibility for the health of their communities, including being assured that the arrangements to protect the health of the communities they serve are robust and implemented. This is achieved through the DPH leadership in the health protection and outbreak control management group. The Director of Public Health will provide updates in respect of COVID-19 epidemiology and progress against the North Lincolnshire Outbreak Management and Control delivery plan to the Deputy Leader who has delegated responsibility for Public Health

Protection functions including outbreak planning and control (including Covid-19).