

Executive Briefing

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**North
Lincolnshire**
Council

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- **Monday 21 February:** Government's Publication of 'living with Covid' plan for removing the remaining legal restrictions while protecting people most vulnerable to COVID-19 and maintaining resilience.
- **From 21 February:** Removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.
- **From 24 February:**
 - Remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. People testing +ve will be **advised** to isolate
 - Fully vaccinated close contacts and people aged > 18, no longer required to test or isolate
 - End of self-isolation support
 - End routine contact tracing
 - End legal requirement for employees to inform employers about positive test
- **From 24 March:**
 - Remove Covid provisions within statutory sick pay

Key milestones from the government's 'living with COVID strategy'

- **From 1 April**

- No longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England (testing will still be available for high risk groups and social care staff). Last day for free PCR testing will be 30th March
- Remove the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification and COVID-19 passports
- The Government will update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people

1st April Workplace Specific

- Guidance to the public and to businesses will be consolidated in line with public health advice.
- Removal of the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their risk assessments (employers should continue to consider the needs of vulnerable employees)
- The existing set of 'Working Safely' guidance will be replaced with new public health guidance.

The Government's objectives in the next phase of the Covid-19 response is to enable the country to:

- Manage Covid-19 like other respiratory illnesses.
- Minimise mortality and retain the ability to respond if a new variant emerges
- Ensure the health and social care system does not become overwhelmed

To meet these objectives, the Government will structure its ongoing response around four key principles:

1. **Living with Covid-19:** removing domestic restrictions while encouraging safer behaviours.
2. **Protecting people most vulnerable to Covid-19:** including deploying targeted testing.
3. **Maintaining resilience:** ongoing surveillance, contingency planning, and the ability to reintroduce key capabilities such as mass vaccination and testing in an emergency.
4. **Securing innovations and opportunities.**

Considerations

- While COVID-19 rates have fallen considerably, it should be noted that COVID-19 hasn't gone away, with the most recent data suggesting an increase in cases across the region and country. There is still a risk of further waves of transmission because of waning immunity and the emergence of new variants and mutations.
- Given changes to testing regimes, we are now far less confident that the national testing data provides a true and accurate representation of prevalence (regional OHID have now stopped publishing daily briefings for this reason)

GLPH Response

- Working on developing a GL outbreak prevention offer
- Continuing coordinating and overseeing local preventative measures through weekly HPOM
- Looking at innovative ways to increase vaccination uptake

Key features of the Greater Lincolnshire Living Safely with Covid-19 DRAFT Plan

Providing an accountability framework:

- Clearly identified roles and responsibilities
- Use of clinical guidance

Preventing disease

- Hierarchy of control measures – eg hand washing, ventilation, social distancing
- Community and engagement
- Immunisation and vaccinations

Identifying disease

- Surveillance
- Sampling and testing
- Low volume contact tracing (e.g. within ones own workplace) – ability to stand-up high volume CT if circumstances change

Disease Control

- Outbreak management
- Health inequalities

Resilience and preparedness

- Identifying lessons
- Incorporate learning into planning

