

KEEP TOWER HAMLETS SAFE

Tower Hamlets Local Outbreak Plan for COVID-19



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This document has been signed off by the Tower Hamlets Pandemic Committee

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Foreword

Covid-19 is the illness that results from infection with coronavirus. In most people, it is a mild illness with symptoms including fever and cough. However, in older people and people with underlying medical conditions it can cause serious and potentially life-threatening illness.

We started seeing the first cases of confirmed coronavirus infection in Tower Hamlets in the beginning of March, just before the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on 11th March 2020.

From the second week of March, daily numbers of confirmed cases started to increase in Tower Hamlets. This reflected the picture across London where the epidemic hit earlier and harder than most of the rest of the country. Numbers continued to rise for several weeks after lockdown was introduced on 23rd March.

By mid-April, when the epidemic was at its peak, our local health and care services were under huge pressure. At the Royal London around 1 in 5 beds were occupied by patients by COVID-19. We were seeing outbreaks in our care homes. Our local general practices reported being under strain due to the number of suspected cases of COVID-19. It was in this period that most deaths in Tower Hamlets linked to COVID-19 happened.

Health data during this period indicated that Tower Hamlets had the fourth highest death rates from COVID-19 in London. Analysis from Queen Mary University showed that people of South Asian ethnicity had 1.9 times the risk of being infected with coronavirus and those from Black ethnic groups had 1.6 times compared to those of White Ethnicity. It also highlighted higher levels of infection linked to deprivation.

These findings reflect a familiar pattern of health inequalities in Tower Hamlets brought into sharp focus by the impacts of coronavirus infection. They reflect higher risks of transmission of infection linked to housing conditions, overcrowding and types of occupations that increase exposure. They also reflect greater susceptibility to infection associated with frailty and underlying health conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease and lung disease.

Whilst numbers of COVID-19 cases are currently low following a prolonged period of lockdown, coronavirus remains a significant threat, particularly to those most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection. When lockdown is eased, there is a risk that infection could once again increase quickly.

Our challenge is to continue to embed the infection control behaviours and practices that have started to become the norm for people in Tower Hamlets over the past months. In addition, now that testing is widespread, we need to ensure that the test and trace programme becomes a way of life for everyone in the borough so that when people are infected the spread of the virus is minimised. We want to provide targeted advice and support to enhance infection control behaviours in vulnerable groups, given the challenges based on household composition and living conditions and vulnerable occupational groups given that many of our residents work in service sector jobs where infection control will be a particular priority.

This plan is a living document. It will be shaped by ongoing engagement with the communities of Tower Hamlets, the experience of managing incidents and scenarios, new evidence and changing policy. Tower Hamlets has a strong network of community partners through Locality Health and Wellbeing boards, Community and Voluntary sector groups, and the Interfaith Forum – the Council has already established a Community Mobilisation Group to understand and address potential

barriers to engaging in prevention and infection control through Test and Trace and will continue to work in partnership.

Above all, it is about how we work together as a community in the borough to support each other to prevent spread of coronavirus and minimise its impact on our daily lives.

Cllr Rachel Blake

Deputy Mayor/Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing/Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Our vision

Tower Hamlets is a place where coronavirus infection is kept as low as possible, those who are most at risk from impacts of COVID-19 are protected and people can get on with their lives free from disruption. We all need to work together to make this happen.

Our ambitions

- 1. All care homes in Tower Hamlets are places with excellent infection control and any risks of outbreaks are identified quickly and contained**
- 2. All schools in Tower Hamlets are places where staff, pupils and parents are assured that the best possible measures are in place to prevent infection and quickly identify and respond to outbreaks**
- 3. All places in Tower Hamlets where there is higher risk of spread and/or impact of infection are identified and measures are in place to prevent spread and quickly identify and respond to outbreaks**
- 4. All people living and working in Tower Hamlets have quick access to tests when needed and get results as quickly as possible**
- 5. All people in Tower Hamlets who are positive for coronavirus infection provide full information on their contacts and for these contacts to be followed up with appropriate self-isolation advice and support to self-isolate if needed**
- 6. Tower Hamlets has an exemplary surveillance system that enables rapid identification and response to potential and actual outbreaks and enables future forecasting**
- 7. All people from communities and groups where the risk of infection and impact is higher have the information and support needed to protect themselves and others, get tested and self-isolate when needed**
- 8. Whenever disparities are identified between different groups, we will ensure these are addressed as part of any response**

- 9. This plan is owned by partners across Tower Hamlets and is accountable to the people of the borough through the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board**

Background

This plan is owned by partners across Tower Hamlets and is accountable to the people of the borough through the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board.

It sets out what we need to do to ensure that how Tower Hamlets is a place where coronavirus infection is kept as low as possible, those who are most at risk from impacts of COVID-19 are protected and people can get on with their lives free from disruption

To keep infection low, we need to focus on two things.

Firstly, we need to make sure that we are continually doing everything we can to prevent outbreaks of coronavirus in the first place.

Secondly, when outbreaks happen, we need to be prepared to respond as quickly as possible and this means having clear plans in which it is clear what needs to be done, who needs to do it and when.

The plan sets out the principles of keeping infection low and managing outbreaks but also provides more detailed plans which are designed to help manage incidents (these are in the appendices). It is based on seven themes that have been set out by national guidance (see next section)

Because of the continually evolving situation, this plan is a live document and will need to be continually shaped by new knowledge about coronavirus, ongoing experience and scenario testing.

The seven themes of the plan

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has developed a shared framework for local outbreak plans which has been used as the basis for the Tower Hamlets plan. The seven themes of this framework are explained below.

Theme one - Outbreaks in care homes and schools

Theme two – High risk places, locations and communities of interest

In order to prevent and minimise spread of coronavirus in Tower Hamlets it is important that we pay attention to the places where it is likely to spread quickly. In addition, we need to take extra care in places where there are people most to experience severe impacts from infection (such as older people with underlying health conditions).

These sections focus on how we prevent coronavirus infection in the highest risk places in the borough and how we prevent further spread if we need to.

Theme three - Local testing

Theme four - Contact tracing

The typical symptoms of COVID-19 (temperature, cough, loss of smell and/or taste) are like other common infectious diseases such as flu. This explains why testing for coronavirus is important so that we can provide the right advice and care to people and understand who is infected and who is not infected in a place.

When people do have a confirmed diagnosis, if we are to contain the spread, we need to find out who has been in contact with that person. This means getting information so we can contact those who may be at risk to make them aware they may have been exposed to the virus and to ensure that they self-isolate to contain spread to others.

These sections focus on our arrangements for ensuring people in the borough have fast access to testing, get the results quickly, provide information on their contacts so they can be followed up.

Theme five - Integrated intelligence

It is vital that we know what the picture of infection is in the borough. This means knowing who has been infected, where infections are occurring and whether levels of infection are increasing. We need to know as early as possible if there are outbreaks in parts of the borough, specific settings or groups. If we are dealing with an outbreak, we need to know how it is developing and whether any measures we are putting in place are having an impact.

This section focusses on our arrangements to bring together data that we get daily from national sources with our more local data to spot warning signs of possible outbreaks and to provide us with intelligence in case we need to manage an outbreak of coronavirus

Theme six - Engaging and supporting communities and individuals

The lesson from the first wave of coronavirus infection is that levels of infection have been higher in some people and the impacts harder. To prevent and minimise spread of infection in these groups, we need to know who these groups are to ensure that the key messages on hygiene, distancing, testing, contact tracing and isolation are communicated clearly and that support is in place (particularly in dealing with the social, economic and health impacts of self-isolation).

This section focusses on how we work with people in high risk groups to ensure they are well informed, reassured, have the support they need to protect themselves and can access help when needed and take action to prevent spread.

Theme 7 Working together to keep Tower Hamlets Safe

Preventing and responding to outbreaks involves the whole system. Over the first wave of coronavirus infection partners across the public, private and voluntary sector have had to work together in new ways to address issues that no single organisation or sector could tackle alone.

This section focusses on how partners will work together to develop and implement this plan and how it will connect to the wider system.

Principles of infection control and management

Before moving to the seven themes, this section provides background on the how outbreaks develop and are managed.

How does an outbreak start?

An epidemic starts with a single case. If that case passes the virus onto more than one person and each of those do the same, numbers rapidly increase. This is what happened with coronavirus. At the height of the epidemic and before lockdown, each infected person was passing the virus onto three or four people.

How can outbreaks of COVID-19 be prevented?

Coronavirus is passed on from one person to another in two main ways. When a person coughs or sneezes droplets can be passed to another person in close contact. They may also contaminate a surface where the virus can survive for two to three days. The risk of getting infected increases the more an individual is exposed through either of these routes.

This means that an infected person can protect non infected people by keeping distance, wearing a face covering or mask to prevent infected droplets passing to others and maintaining good hand hygiene. It is also important to keep surfaces that an infected person has been in contact with clean.

Non infected people can protect themselves by keeping distance, wearing face masks and other protective equipment if they cannot maintain distance, not touching possibly contaminated surfaces and washing hands as frequently as possible.

Whether or not these measures are in place, it remains possible that an infected person has passed the virus to people he or she has been in contact with.

If an epidemic is to be prevented or at least minimised, it is vital that both the infected person and contacts isolate themselves. The infected person for seven days from when symptoms start (or longer if symptoms persist) and the contact for fourteen days.

In the longer term, it is hoped that a vaccine is developed so that people have immunity to infection.

How is an outbreak identified and managed?

An outbreak is a situation in which we see more cases of infection or illness than we expect. We can only know if there is an outbreak if we are monitoring what is going on (surveillance). Once we do know, we need to take immediate action to prevent further infection, but we also need to understand what is causing it. This often requires detailed information so that the right actions can be taken prevent further spread and future outbreaks.

Responding to an outbreak requires excellent teamwork across organisations. For example, in a care home outbreak of COVID-19, staff may spot unusual patterns and report these to Public Health England (PHE) or it may be that PHE have noticed a cluster of positive tests in the home.

What to do next will depend on an assessment of risk but the response is likely to involve a range of partners including the hospital, local GPs, environmental health, public health, commissioning and communications. If there is further escalation, other bodies may start to get involved at regional or even national levels and difficult decisions may be need including closure.

For these reasons, it is vital that everyone is prepared beforehand and knows their roles and responsibilities. Within this plan, there are therefore links to documents that set these out as clearly as possible so that we know what to do if there is an outbreak and we can rehearse and learn using possible scenarios.

The link below is to a document that provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of different organisation involved in identifying outbreaks. This provides the framework for the plans in different settings that are covered in the following sections.

[Agreement between London Coronavirus-19 response cell \(LCRC\) and local authorities](#)

1. Preventing and controlling outbreaks in schools and care homes

There are some places where the chances of transmitting infection are higher or the impacts of infection on people are particularly dangerous.

Care homes are settings where both conditions apply. Staff need to be close to residents to provide care and residents may be frail and particularly vulnerable to the impacts of coronavirus infection.

Schools are places of mass gathering where physical distancing is difficult (particularly where there are younger children). This means they are places where infection can spread rapidly and potentially back into households with vulnerable members.

This first section therefore focusses on these two particularly high-risk settings.

Care Homes

The devastating impact of COVID-19 on staff and residents in care homes through the epidemic cannot be overstated. 27% of all deaths from COVID-19 in the UK were in care home residents and care workers had higher levels of infection and death.

We cannot let this happen again and we want every care home setting in Tower Hamlets to be safe for residents, staff and visitors. This means that they are places where basic hygiene measures are always followed, and staff have the protective equipment they need and know when and how to use it.

Care homes also need to know their risk of outbreaks and how to respond. This means knowing who is positive for coronavirus infection through testing (whether they have symptoms or not) and what to do in response (isolating residents, making sure staff self-isolate).

They also need to be clear about how to ensure infected people from outside the care home do not spread infection within it (eg visitors, discharged patients).

We want all care homes in Tower Hamlets to be places with excellent infection control where any risks of outbreaks are identified quickly and contained

Our detailed plan for preventing and containing outbreaks in care settings can be found by clicking on the link below.

[Care settings](#)

Schools

We want every child to flourish and the everyday experience of attending school is essential to this. The lockdown has been a huge disruption to a generation of school children's lives. Even before lockdown, schools were disrupted by rising levels of infection and uncertainty about how to respond.

We need to keep schools open and maintain attendance by preventing and minimising any outbreaks of COVID-19. This is a huge challenge and each school will have its own challenges depending on what type of school it is, who attends it, class sizes and aspects of its buildings and facilities.

We want all schools in Tower Hamlets to be places where staff, pupils and parents are assured that the best possible measures are in place to prevent infection and where any risks of outbreaks are identified quickly and contained

Our detailed plans for preventing and containing outbreaks in schools and early years setting can be found by clicking on the link below

[Schools](#)

2. Preventing and controlling outbreaks in other high-risk places and locations

Across Tower Hamlets, in addition to care homes and schools, there are many other places where we know that there are risks of rapid spread, high impact on vulnerable people or both.

Anywhere that people tend to congregate increases the risk of transmitting coronavirus.

In the outside space, these are places such as bus stops, train stations, play areas, outdoor gyms, housing estates and locations for public events.

However, the risk of spreading the virus increases in enclosed spaces, particularly where people are close to each other for some time. These are places such as libraries, leisure centres, workplaces, hospitals, general practices, residential homes, shops, community centres, hostels, mosques, churches, buses, taxis and trains. Importantly, they also include people's private homes.

For all these places the same principles apply to prevent spread – clean environment, keeping physical distance, regular handwashing, face covering to protect others, using personal protective equipment (PPE) where it is not possible to maintain distance, getting tested and self-isolating if symptomatic and self-isolating if a contact.

We want all places in Tower Hamlets where there is higher risk of spread and/or impact of infection to be identified with measures in place to prevent spread and quickly identify and respond to outbreaks

The links below are to our detailed local prevention and outbreak plans for a number of these settings. They cover what we need to do to and how we work together to prevent outbreaks and manage them.

[Workplaces](#)

[Community settings](#)

[Housing and home environment](#)

[Residential care settings](#)

[Hostels and Hotels](#)

[Religious settings](#)

3. Testing

People infected with coronavirus may or may not go on to show symptoms. They also may not show common symptoms of fever, cough and loss of smell or taste. If they do have symptoms; it may be that they are caused by a different cause of infection (flu has similar symptoms).

People are most likely to pass on infection if they have symptoms. However, the evidence suggests that those not displaying symptoms could still pass on the virus.

The experience since the start of the epidemic has shown us how important testing for coronavirus infection is.

This is because a positive test confirms the need for a person to self-isolate and provides the trigger to follow up contacts of that person and advise them to self-isolate.

It also provides vital information on who, where and when people are getting infected across the borough.

Most importantly, if there is an outbreak, knowing who has a positive test is essential to shape how we respond.

We want all people living and working in Tower Hamlets to have quick access to tests when needed and get results as quickly as possible

There are several ways people can get tests currently including ordering a test at home and testing through mobile sites.

During the epidemic, we have worked with our local hospitals and GPs to find ways to make testing even more accessible and to get results faster.

The link below is to our local arrangements for people to get testing.

Arrangements for testing are changing on an ongoing basis and we will keep these arrangements under continual review.

[Testing arrangements for Tower Hamlets](#)

4. Test and trace programme

If an individual is infected with coronavirus, we need to get to his or her contacts fast. This is because we can then stop them from passing the virus on to others by recommending that they self-isolate. This could be a lifesaving intervention.

The national test and trace programme launched on the 28th May 2020. This means that any Tower Hamlets resident who has a positive test will be asked to provide information on who they have been in contact with. They may provide this information online or to a call handler.

As an example of how this works, over the ten days before the 24th of June there were 13 people with positive tests. Following contact with these individuals, 95 contacts were identified and 93 were contacted. Each of those will have been contacted and been provided advice on whether they need to self-isolate.

We need test and trace to work for everyone in Tower Hamlets.

Most importantly, it needs to work for those groups that we know are at higher risk of infection and serious complications from infection.

These include older people, people who have difficulty self-isolating (eg due to housing or economic reasons), people from Black, African and Minority ethnic groups, people from high risk occupations (eg driving, construction, catering and caring occupations), rough sleepers and people living in care settings.

This means that we need to prioritise working alongside all communities in the borough to ensure that everyone understands the importance of test and trace, knows how to get tested and provide details of contacts and can access any support they need to self-isolate.

Locally, the council, NHS and voluntary sector are working together to ensure that people in Tower Hamlets have easy access to testing and have the support, if they need it, to identify contacts as quickly as possible to prevent other people getting infected.

This is particularly important where outbreaks are developing in places where the virus could spread rapidly and/or the impacts of infection could be life threatening.

We want to ensure that all people in Tower Hamlets who are positive for coronavirus infection to provide full information on their contacts and for these contacts to be followed up with appropriate self-isolation advice and support to self-isolate if needed

The links below are to our borough plan for test and trace, local pilots and capacity assumptions when dealing with complex outbreaks

[Test and trace](#)

5. Data and intelligence

In order to plan how we prevent and respond to outbreaks; we need to know what is going on.

The experience of the epidemic has shown us how quickly the virus can spread and how it responds to measures to control spread. It has also shown how it clusters and affects different groups in different ways.

This means that when we plan for and respond to outbreaks, we need to keep track local trends daily and have warning systems in place so we can respond quickly.

We also need to know where in the borough and within which groups there are higher risks of transmission and impact of infection so we can take action to prevent outbreaks in the first place.

To do this we are working across the council, NHS and Public Health England to bring together and map all available data from national, London and local sources.

We want Tower Hamlets to have an exemplary surveillance system that enables rapid identification and response to potential and actual outbreaks and enables future forecasting

The link is to our plans for how and what data we will be collecting and analysing.

[Integrated intelligence](#)

6. Engaging and supporting communities

Tower Hamlets' strength is its diversity and depth of its community networks. The response of residents and local organisations to help people support each other has been inspiring.

The future is uncertain. As lockdown is eased, we don't know for certain what will happen to levels of coronavirus in our communities. If these levels do increase again, it is likely to mean more restrictions, more testing and more people needing to self-isolate (this may be for up to 14 days).

For many people in the borough, self-isolation has been particularly hard for several reasons including housing conditions, income, employment and social isolation. This means that advice to self-isolate may be difficult to implement and increases the risk of spread in people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19.

We need to make sure we are getting the key messages out into communities. We need to hear people's concerns and explore how we can work together to ensure people are informed, reassured and supported.

We want all people from communities and groups where the risk of infection and impact is higher to have the information and support needed to protect themselves and others, get tested and self-isolate when needed

Whenever disparities are identified between different groups we will ensure these are addressed as part of any response

The links below are to our plans for engaging with communities on the test and trace programme and to information on current support available for people, particularly those who are self-isolating.

[Community engagement plan](#)

7. Working together to Keep Tower Hamlets safe

Everyone has a part to play in keeping Tower Hamlets safe from coronavirus infection and its impacts.

As citizens it is about being informed and taking action to protect oneself and others. It is also about coming together to support each other through informal groups, community organisations and networks.

Coronavirus continues to have a major impact on public, private and voluntary sectors. Working in partnership is vital to ensure we are moving together in responding to the threat of coronavirus infection and outbreaks.

This plan therefore needs to connect to the wider plans of organisations and sectors as they start to think about their future in a context of uncertainty about how coronavirus infection will impact on them. It also needs to continually

In addition, the plan needs to set out how organisations and sectors will need to respond quickly to the immediate risks that may develop from outbreaks or situations where there is a high risk of transmission at scale.

This plan is owned by partners across Tower Hamlets and is accountable to the people of the borough through the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board

The links below set out the groups and boards that will be responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring this plan and the other bodies that it will be accountable to.

[Local outbreak plan governance](#)

8. Next Steps

Over the last three months, a tremendous amount of work has taken place to prevent the spread of coronavirus, protect those most at risk and support residents self-isolating. To make further progress against our ambitions, an action plan focussed on the next three months has been developed. Actions include delivering outbreak scenario table-top exercises for a number of different settings; developing detailed plans for additional testing if required; holding open space sessions with communities; and finalising data integration processes to feed into the weekly dashboard. These next steps are outlined in the link below.

[Next steps](#)

Core documents

Introduction section

Joint agreement between the London Coronavirus Response Cell and Local Authorities

This joint agreement provides a framework for joint working between the PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and the public health structures in London Local Authorities (LAs) for managing COVID-19 outbreaks, complex settings and community clusters.

This agreement will be kept under monthly review initially due to the rapidly changing regional situation and guidance, and fluctuating capacity across the system. This document is therefore intended to be flexible and adaptable for local operation due to the different support and capacity arrangements available in local systems in London.

Read the [joint agreement between the LCRC and local authorities](#)

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1. Care Home and Schools management arrangements

The documents below set out plans for local outbreaks in care homes and schools including defining monitoring arrangements, potential scenarios and planning the required response. LCRC will work in partnership with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) to manage outbreaks in Care Homes and Schools and Early Years Settings.

Once LCRC received notification from Tier 2, they will inform LBTH, gather information and undertake a risk assessment with the affected Care Home/School/Early Years Setting.

Furthermore, LCRC will provide advice such as information materials to the setting and manage cases and contacts, testing and infection control. LCRC will recommend ongoing control measures and convene an Incident Management Team if required. For care homes, LCRC link with CCG named GP/person for the home.

1.1 Care home settings

LBTH will respond to enquiries from care homes and support them in preventing an outbreak. Once an outbreak has been confirmed, LBTH will follow up on infection control together the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) named person and liaise with the local GP and other health providers in supporting the home. LBTH can also support care homes in accessing PPE and supporting vulnerable contacts who are required to self-isolate. Should LCRC convene an Incident Management Team (IMT), LBTH will participate and provide further support to the affected care home.

1a Service Operating Plan: Care Homes and COVID-19

The document below is our Care Homes Service Operating Plan. It seeks to minimise primary and secondary transmission of COVID-19 within care homes by summarising key points from government guidance and outlining the local response that should be undertaken by Care Homes in partnership with PHE, and Tower Hamlets Adult Social Care and Public Health teams.

Read the [Care Homes service operating plan](#).

1b Outbreak Control Plan for managing community clusters in Care Homes

This document below outlines the framework for joint working between PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and the Public Health structures in Tower Hamlets managing COVID-19 outbreaks in Care Homes. It also covers the different roles that teams have within the local authority and our partner agencies. It is intended to be flexible and adaptable for local operation due to the different support and capacity arrangements available in local systems across the borough.

We recognise that management of COVID-19 outbreaks across Tower Hamlets will take a partnership effort from our providers / services / local organisations and our communities. We therefore aim to continue engaging with our stakeholders to evolve our outbreak management plans.

Read the [Outbreak Control Plan for managing outbreaks in Care Homes](#)

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1.2 Schools and Early Years Settings

LBTH will respond to enquiries from Schools and Early Years Settings and liaise with school governors to support with communication to parents. LBTH will also support vulnerable contacts who are required to self-isolate and liaise with the local CCG/ GP and other health providers and follow up on infection control. If necessary, LBTH will convene a local Incident Management Team and support with COVID-19 secure risk assessments.

1c Service Operating Plan: Schools and Early Years COVID-19

The document below is our Service Operating Plan for schools and early years. It aims to help the borough minimise primary and secondary transmission of COVID-19 within schools and early years settings. It summarises the key points from government guidance and outline the local response that should be undertaken in partnership between PHE, LBTH Children's Social Care and Public Health.

Read the [Service Operating Plan: Schools and Early Years COVID-19](#).

1d Outbreak Control Plan for managing outbreaks in Schools, Colleges and Early Years

The document below outlines the framework for joint working between the PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and the Public Health structures in Tower Hamlets managing COVID-19 outbreaks in Schools and Early Years. It covers the different roles that teams have within the LA and our partner agencies. This document is therefore intended to be flexible and adaptable for local operation due to the different support and capacity arrangements available in local systems across the borough.

Read the [Outbreak Control Plan for managing outbreaks in Schools, Colleges and Early Years](#)

1e LCRC Response to Cases and Outbreaks of COVID-19 in School and Educational Setting

The documents below set out the proposed approach of the London Coronavirus Response Cell(LCRC) in managing cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 in school and educational settings and inform the development of effective joint-working arrangements between PHE and Local Authorities.

Read the [LCRC Response to Cases and Outbreaks of COVID-19 in School and Educational Setting](#)

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2. High risk settings management arrangements

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2a Outbreak Control Plan for Workplaces

This document below outlines the framework for joint working between PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and the Public Health structures in Tower Hamlets managing COVID-19 workplace outbreaks. It also covers the different roles that teams have within the LA and our partner agencies. This document is therefore intended to be flexible and adaptable for local operation due to the different support and capacity arrangements available in local systems across the borough.

Specifically, this plan considers Large Corporations, Small and Medium Enterprises, Voluntary, Community Sectors and Shopping Centres.

Read the [Outbreak Control Plan for Workplaces](#)

2b Outbreak Control Plan for Community Setting

This document below outlines the framework for joint working between PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and the Public Health structures in Tower Hamlets managing COVID-19 outbreaks in community settings. It also covers the different roles that teams have within the LA and our partner agencies. This document is therefore intended to be flexible and adaptable for local operation due to the different support and capacity arrangements available in local systems across

the borough. **Specifically, this plan considers Idea stores service, leisure and recreational facilities (such as museums, galleries and pubs) and food banks**

Read the [Outbreak Control Plan for Community Setting](#)

2c Outbreak Control Plan for Housing and Home Environment

This document outlines the framework for joint working between PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and the Public Health structures in Tower Hamlets managing COVID-19 outbreaks home environments. It also covers the different roles that teams have within the LA and our partner agencies. This document is therefore intended to be flexible and adaptable for local operation due to the different support and capacity arrangements available in local systems across the borough.

Specifically, this plan considers social housing, private rented sector, student accommodation, fire stations and dormitories

Read the [Outbreak Control Plan for Housing and Home Environment setting](#)

2d Outbreak Control Plan for Residential Care Setting

This document outlines the framework for joint working between PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and the Public Health structures in Tower Hamlets managing COVID-19 outbreaks in residential care settings. It also covers the different roles that teams have within the LA and our partner agencies. This document is therefore intended to be flexible and adaptable for local operation due to the different support and capacity arrangements available in local systems across the borough. **Specifically, this plan considers residential homes, hostels, hotels, sheltered Housing and custody suites**

Read the [Outbreak Control Plan for Residential Care Setting](#)

2e Hostels and Hotels Service Operating Plan

This document aims to help the borough to minimise secondary transmission of COVID-19 within hostels and GLA and council-commissioned hotels for the homeless population by summarising the key points from several guidance. It includes advice on managing an outbreak and protecting those who are extremely vulnerable, taking into account the complex needs of populations living in hostels. It also outlines the critical roles of different teams/organisations within the response, providing more detail than the information provided in the general outbreak control plan for residential settings.

Read the [Hostels and Hotels Service Operating Plan](#)

2f Outbreak Control Plan for Religious Settings

This document outlines the framework for joint working between PHE London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) and the Public Health structures in Tower Hamlets managing COVID-19 outbreaks in religious settings. It also covers the different roles that teams have within the LA and our partner agencies. This document is intended to be flexible and adaptable for local operation due to the different support and capacity arrangements available in local systems across the borough.

Read the [Outbreak Control Plan for Religious Settings](#)

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3. Testing

3a Coronavirus testing arrangements – national and local

The page below sets out current arrangements for the regional testing centre in London, home testing, mobile testing units, satellite centres. It also set out LCRC support for testing as well as local approaches that have been developed to enable rapidly deployment of testing capacity (these have supported the response to care home testing, hostels and have involved the GP Care Group, the London Find and Treat team and Bart's pathology pathways)

Find out about [local testing arrangements](#)

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4. Test and Trace

The documents below set out arrangements and plans for oversight and implementation of the NHS Test and Trace programme in Tower Hamlets.

4a NHS Test and Trace in Tower Hamlets overview

The document below provides an overview of the NHS test and trace programme and how local implementation is being taken forward through the Test and Trace silver group. It also provides current data on uptake of the programme and outputs as well as a logic model for delivery.

Read the [NHS Test and Trace in Tower Hamlets overview](#)

4b NHS Test and Trace action plan

The document below sets out the action plan for local implementation of the NHS test and trace programme based on four priority areas: operations, community mobilisation and communication, data and intelligence and pilots (primary care pilots)

Read the [NHS Test and Trace action plan](#)

4c Primary care pilot protocol

The page below sets out the protocols for primary care pilots that are being taken forward in the borough (GP Care Group, Bromley by Bow Centre). These aim to address barriers that some residents may have in participating in the NHS Test and Trace programme and connect residents to support to help them self-isolate. The protocols aim to ensure alignment with the national NHS Test and Trace programme and links to local support.

Find out more about [primary care pilot protocol](#)

4d Contact tracing capacity in complex incidents

The page below sets out capacity assumptions of the PHE LCRC and local authority in responding to complex outbreaks (eg care homes, schools, community settings). This document describes the current situation and will need to be continually adapted to changing organisational circumstances.

Find out more about [contact tracing capacity in complex incidents](#)

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5. Integrated Intelligence

5a Data and Intelligence arrangements

The document below sets out the key national and local data sources that will be combined to enable surveillance of coronavirus and suspected/confirmed COVID-19 illness in Tower Hamlets. It also sets out dashboard indicators and local arrangements for collation, analysis and insight generation of data through the NHS test and trace intelligence group. When available, data flowing through the DHSC Joint Biosecurity Centre will be integrated into our local dashboard.

Read about [Data and Intelligence arrangements](#)

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6. Engaging and supporting communities

6a Community engagement plan

The page below sets out the plans for community engagement on the NHS test and trace programme. This is being coordinate through a cross organisation community mobilisation group. It covers principles for engagement based on stakeholder consultation through the Communities Driving Change programme and sets out the plan from June to August.

Find out more about the [community engagement plan](#)

6b Local support for self-isolating residents

The document below summarises the current local arrangements for supporting people who are self-isolating includ the contact centre, contact details, self-isolation referral support, food provision, volunteering hub and financial support.

Read the [local support of self-isolating residents](#)

6c Communication plan principles

The page below sets out how Communications will support the plan and any outbreak management needed. Communications on NHS Test and Trace is being coordinated at a pan London level. The Tower Hamlets communications team will support the plan and any outbreak management needed, alongside continuing promotion of NHS Test and Trace to ensure that residents are aware of the programme and how to engage with it when they need testing.

Find out more about the [communication plan principles](#)

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7. Working together to Keep Tower Hamlets safe

7a Governance arrangements

The document below set out the governance arrangements for oversight and implementation of the Local Outbreak Plan as part of a wider system response. The Health and Wellbeing assumes the role of the COVID-19 Member led engagement board. The current pandemic committee takes on the functions of the COVID-19 Health Protection Board specified in the national guidance. The operational implementation of the of the Local Outbreak Plan is through the Local Outbreak Plan Coordination Group reporting to the COVID-19 Health Protection Board.

Read the [Governance arrangements](#)

7b Legislation

The documents below have been distributed by the Beacon Test and Trace programme. They provide detail on legislation that may be used to limit the spread of coronavirus including potential power to order a local lockdown. (These documents will be reviewed and revised following discussion at the Covid-19 Health Protection Board in July).

- Find out more about the [Health Protection Board – Legislative powers](#)
- Find out about the [powers relating to Potentially Infectious Persons](#)
- Find out about the [potential powers to order local lockdown](#)

Next steps

The document below details the actions which will be delivered over the next three months to help achieve the ambitions outlined at the beginning of this document.

Find out more about the [next steps](#)

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