

Wigan Borough COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan

Executive summary

The Wigan Borough Covid 19 outbreak plan is the borough plan for managing outbreaks, managing down Covid 19 infection rates locally and mitigating any negative impacts relating to the phased relaxation of the current national lockdown arrangements. It largely mirrors the GM Covid 19 Outbreak plan which has been jointly produced by the 10 areas that make up Greater Manchester.

To respond effectively to the unprecedented challenge that managing down the infection rates and living with Covid 19 will present for the foreseeable future, a whole system response that is appropriate and effective is essential.

In order to ensure a joined-up system response there is an unparalleled requirement for England, GM and Wigan to work together to reduce and manage the virus and the impacts it is having on our communities. The imposition of lockdown and stringent social distancing measures have contributed significantly to reduce the level of infection, but they impose a large burden on individuals, families, communities and the economy. National government has now introduced a phased relaxation of lockdown measures. A foundation stone in the mitigation of the potential impacts of relaxing lockdown and supporting our communities and businesses to resume activity as safely as possible, is the introduction of the Test, Track, Trace, Contain and Enable (Test and Trace) programme.

Evidence suggests that the potential remains for further peaks in infection and death rates. The introduction of local regional and national Covid 19 outbreak plans will support the system to proactively plan and flexibly respond to any future outbreaks and subsequent infection rate peaks.

The plan aims to be a readable reference document that sets out how we are identifying cases of COVID-19, how we are tracing those who may have been in contact with the virus and the ways in which we are trying to reduce or prevent onward transmission of the virus.

Due to the constantly evolving nature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the almost daily improved knowledge and understanding of the virus, together with the developing national and local approaches to its management, this plan is a work in progress, a living document that will be updated as part of an iterative process and be continually updated as an iterative process. It will also be updated as local and regional capabilities and processes change. It will support continuous improvement by capturing evidence of 'what works' as the Wigan Test and Trace Cell and Wigan Borough Health Protection Board learns from experience of managing COVID-19 cases and outbreaks.