

NHS Test and Trace: NY Summary

On 27th May 2020 the government formally announced the start of the NHS Test and Trace programme. The test and trace (T&T) service is one strand of all overall approach for management of Covid-19 outbreaks. Whilst the core contact tracing elements will be managed by the regional and local teams of NHS Test and Trace, there is a significant role for local authorities and partners to support the overall programme.

Below is a summary of the different tiers of the response, including detail on how we are responding locally. The development of local plans will be an iterative process as the local and national picture becomes clearer and more people access the T&T system.

National response

There are 3 levels to the Contact tracing:

- Tier 1 – **Public Health England health protection team** will manage the most complex cases – and will be the interface with local authorities
- Tier 2 – **healthcare professionals** will contact cases and escalate complex cases
- Tier 3 – the commercial arm of **call handlers** will manage routine contacts

It is intended that an NHS Covid-19 App will complement these tiers.

Regional response

Tier 1 will be led by Public Health England (PHE) local health protection teams who will be responsible for contact tracings escalated from the national service (e.g. outbreaks, complex settings). The local team is boosting their capacity and will work with local authorities to arrange support for contacts who need assistance to self-isolate. In the case of large outbreaks, the team may need mutual aid to help with increased volumes of contact tracing but the details of these arrangements are still being developed.

In addition to national governance it is proposed that there will also be governance at Yorkshire and Humber and local levels. The YH governance will provide oversight and strategic co-ordination bridging national and local systems. A lead Director of Public Health from the network will be involved, working with the PHE region to establish this level.

Local response

Responses at a local level will be led by Directors of Public Health (North Yorkshire – Dr Lincoln Sargeant). Public health (Upper Tier) local authorities are required to produce a COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan by the end of June that illustrates our response. There are seven core elements to these plans, as detailed on page 2.

Current progress

Overall

- Initial draft overview of 7 areas with named leads for each of the themes
- Engaging with partners to inform and help shape planning and response

- 1 **Care homes and schools**
Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools (e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, potential scenarios and planning the required response)
- 2 **High risk places, locations and communities**
Identifying and planning how to manage high risk places, locations and communities of interest (e.g. defining preventative measures and outbreak management strategies)
- 3 **Local testing capacity**
Identifying methods for local testing to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population (e.g. defining how to prioritise and manage deployment, examples may include NHS, pop-up etc).
- 4 **Contact tracing in complex settings**
Assessing local and regional contact tracing capability in complex settings (e.g. identifying specific local complex communities, developing assumptions to estimate demand and options to scale capacity)
- 5 **Data integration**
Integrating national and local data and scenario planning through the Joint Biosecurity Centre Playbook (e.g., data management planning, including data security, NHS data linkages)
- 6 **Vulnerable people**
Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate (e.g. facilitating NHS and local support, identifying relevant community groups etc) and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities
- 7 **Local Boards**
Establishing governance structures led by existing Covid-19 Health Protection Boards in conjunction with local NHS and supported by existing Gold command forums and a new member-led Board to communicate with the general public

Theme 1

- Extensive work with care homes over the last few months, including daily calls and multi-agency outbreak management
- NYCC Public Health team working with CYPs on guidance being released today. PHE working on SOPs for outbreak management in different school settings

Theme 2

- Mapping high risk settings including hostels, some businesses, houses of multiple occupancy etc. including development of risk matrix to identify areas of greatest concern

Theme 3

- Ongoing work through the Local Resilience Forum to expand testing routes including access to Bradford testing site, plus NY now one of two areas nationally to pilot more locally-controlled testing via mobile testing units from next week

Theme 4

- Identifying staff e.g. EH and trading standards who may be able to support PHE-led contact tracing in complex settings as noted above. Particularly important in settings where standard contact tracing is difficult e.g. homeless, traveller communities

Theme 5

- Set up central email address dph@northyorks.gov.uk, and developing central point of contact phone number
- Working with colleagues to develop a system for timely sharing and review of data

Theme 6

- Using existing arrangements for support of shielded populations and other vulnerable cohorts. Linking with customer contact centre for any contacts that may be referred for support.

Theme 7

- Working with Democratic services on terms of reference for new member led Board including membership and links to existing structures such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and Local Resilience Forum

Next steps

- Finish first draft of outbreak control plan for week of 8 June
- Conference meeting arranged with partners from across the system (including environmental health, PHE, trading standards, NHS) to discuss local plans on 5th June
- Local Board to be set up by week of 8th June – aiming for initial meeting in next 2 weeks
- Standard operating procedure with PHE about how best to interface – need for 2 way sharing of information into/from T&T system.

