



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



To Directors of Public Health

26th May 2020

Dear colleagues

The work continues apace on the design of the Test and Trace programme and thank you for all the work that Directors of Public Health are doing to help prepare for the next phase.

On Friday Tom Riordan, as the programme lead for Contain, launched the Local Outbreak Control Plans and shared the £300m funding announcement. Many of you joined the webinar that the LGA set up. PHE and ADPH are working closely with Tom and you will be aware that these plans will be produced by Directors of Public Health within upper tier local authorities. Through the Design Working Group, we are working closely with Tom and are producing a contribution to the first meeting of the new National Outbreak Control Plan Advisory Group, which was also part of Friday's announcement.

We would like your help as the Working Group will be producing a description of the health protection system that reflects the partnership between local government and PHE and demonstrates its role as a foundation for the wider place-based approach which will be set out in the Local Outbreak Control Plans. Upper tier local authorities will fully involve district councils in two tier areas, combined authorities, LRFs/SCGs, NHS partners including GPs, private and voluntary sector organisations. The local and regional governance arrangements were set out in the DHSC Control Plan Communication Package sent to all Directors of Public Health last Friday. The local plans, linked with the work of the Joint Biosecurity Council, will be at the heart of the next phase of the response.

Directors of Public Health will lead the development of Local Outbreak Plans and DsPH with Public Health England's local health protection team will lead the work on contact tracing and managing outbreaks in complex settings and situations: HPTs will lead at Centre level and DsPH will lead within their Authorities. In previous letters we have described this as Level 1 which is delivered with partners at local levels.

We would like your help with two specific issues about Level 1 at this stage:

- (1) The approach to management of outbreak tracing and management

We have produced a draft flow chart that describes the process for the handling of a positive test result case that needs to be treated as a complex case or setting/situation. We are looking to develop a package of materials that support Level 1 outbreak tracing and management which links with the work of the webtool (CTAS) and the phone based contact tracing system. The phone based system is structured with the health professional tracers (Level 2) focused on case interviews and call handler tracers (Level 3) phoning contacts. We will be shortly sharing further details on the operation of the webtool and the phone based contact tracing system.

This is work in progress and please feedback any comments through your ADPH regional networks.

(2) Building local capacity

The management of local outbreaks is resource intensive work and so local authorities through the leadership of their Directors of Public Health and PHE will work closely together in building capacity of both the local authority public and environmental health teams and the PHE local health protection teams, which will be a key part of the Local Outbreak Control Plans. PHE is redirecting internal resources, arranging secondments and recruiting new staff to increase its capacity. We would like to know more about the position across local government in two areas:

- a) Information on your current resources working on Level 1 outbreak management and contact tracing.
- b) Any initial plans to increase this capacity (including how you would work with local partners such as the NHS, community groups, etc.)

A proforma is attached and ask that you please return this to LCapacityplans@phe.gov.uk **by 5pm on Wednesday 27 May**. We will share the summary position through the ADPH regional networks. For those working in two-tier areas, please engage with colleagues at the district and, if groups of UTLAs want to respond as a sub-regional grouping, please feel free to provide information on this larger footprint.

Thank you for your help.

With best wishes



Jeanelle de Gruchy
President ADPH



Richard Gleave
Deputy Chief Executive, PHE

Appendix 1: Proforma on information on capacity

Name of the Upper Tier Local Authority/Authorities:

Name of Person completing the form:

Question 1: Current Resources

	WTE	Comments
Public Health specialist/consultant		
Public Health or Environmental Health practitioner		
Other		

Question 2: Plans for expansion (including how you would work with local partners such as the NHS, community groups, etc.)

Period	Description of expansion plans (ideally with WTE)
For end of June	
In July and August	

Please return by 5pm on Wednesday 27 May to LAcapacityplans@phe.gov.uk