



COVID-19

Local

Outbreak

Management Plan

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION



We have worked on the Wiltshire Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) closely with our partners, and it is in place to protect you, your family and our communities

as much as possible should there be a local COVID-19 outbreak.

We all have a vital role to play in suppressing possible outbreaks before they gain momentum and our plan puts a system in place to give us all the best opportunity to do this.

The system of testing, tracing and self-isolating will help us all to resume our normal lives as much as possible, while being protected from the threat still posed by COVID-19.

We really appreciate everyone's efforts so far in keeping the impact of COVID-19 low in Wiltshire and if we all continue to work together as we have we're optimistic it can stay that way.

You can find the full version of our [Local Outbreak Management Plan](#) on our website, but we hope this summary document gives you a good overview of how it will work here in Wiltshire.

We know this has been a difficult time for so many of you, but if we can suppress this virus, there will be less disruption and many more positive times on the horizon.

Thanks for all your support.

**Terence Herbert, Chief Executive,
Wiltshire Council**

PRINCIPLES

Our response will be led by our Director of Public Health, but positive collaboration will be required with our public sector and communities

We must work on the assumption an outbreak in Wiltshire will happen at some point, and this plan provides the framework for a successful containment.

The principles to our approach are:

- We will build on existing health protection processes, not duplicate them
- We will ensure testing takes place quickly and tracing contacts of those who have tested positive occurs at pace, advising them to self-isolate
- We will aim to keep the virus under control through improved co-ordination whilst maintaining community engagement
- The governance arrangements associated with our LOMP will provide the structure and responsibility to enable a place-based approach
- Our assurance role will ensure we build on local knowledge and real time data flow between local and national systems
- We will ensure that robust evidence and local knowledge steer a consistent approach to our decision making
- We will work with neighbouring local authorities and key partners such as health and the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) as required to ensure consistency of decision-making and public messaging.

YOUR ROLE

We simply need you to do what the majority of you have been doing since March, and that's play your part.

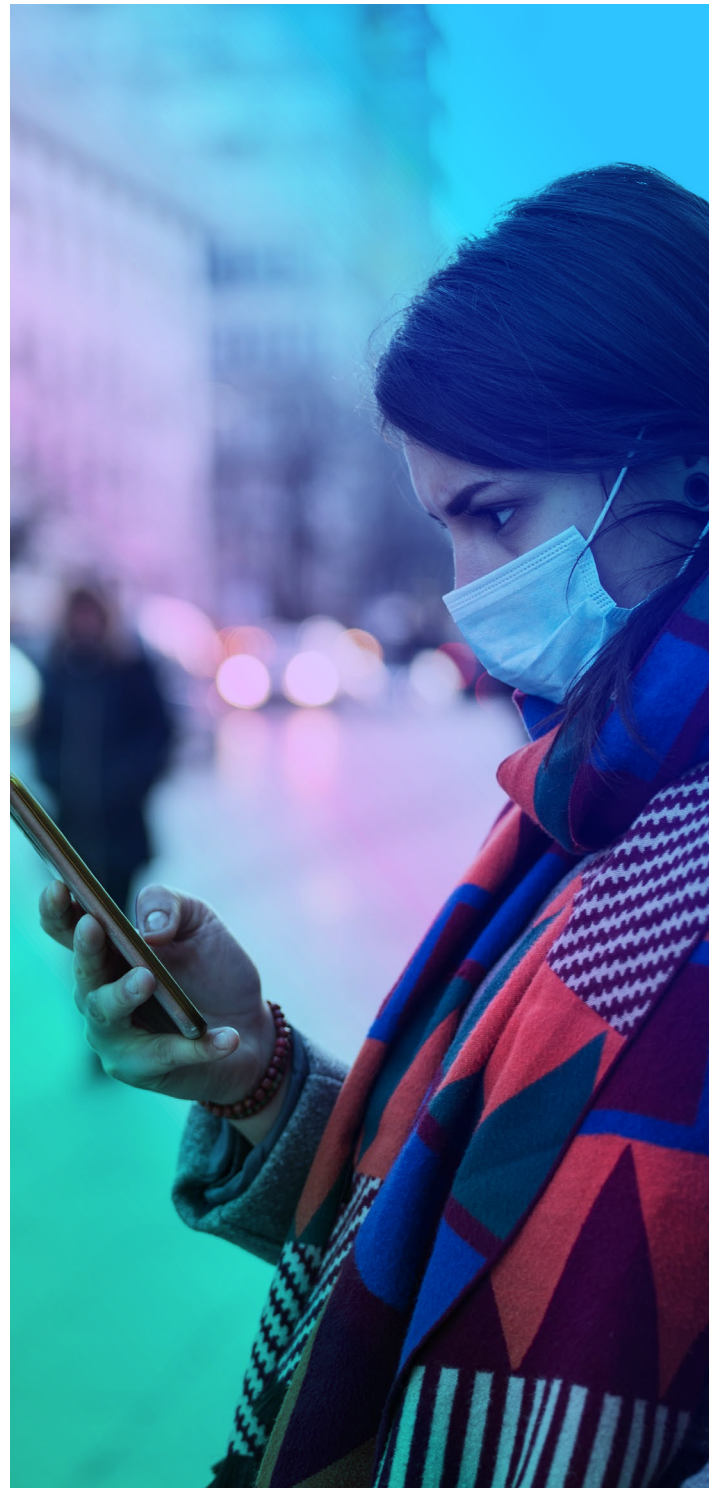
The statistics show that Wiltshire has been low down on the national list of numbers of COVID-19 cases, and the virus has so far been kept under control in the county.

However, despite lockdown restrictions easing, will still need to follow the latest guidance carefully.

So that means:

- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water
- Use hand sanitiser wherever you can
- Closely observe social distancing guidelines
- Self-isolate and book a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms. You can [book a test online](#).
- Following the latest Government advice on face coverings
- Following advice and guidance if you are contacted as part of the track and trace system
- Find out more about the service on the Government's test and trace [website](#)

We do not want to see a local lockdown happen in Wiltshire. If we all play our part, we can make sure cases in Wiltshire remain low.



KEY THEMES

Seven national key themes are woven into our plan and are essential to it being effective. They are:

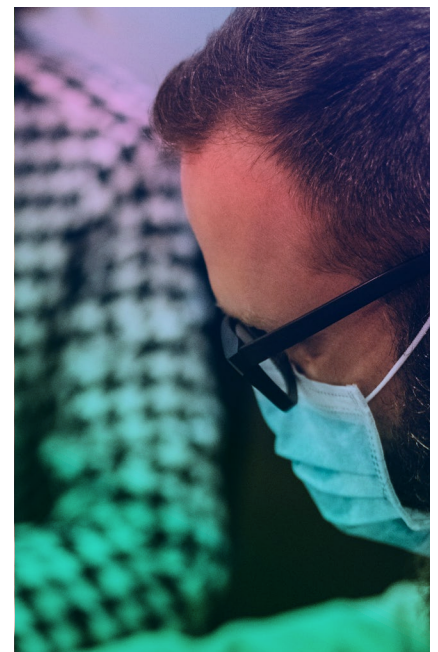
-  Care homes and schools
-  Identify high risk settings, communities and places
-  Local testing capacity
-  Contact tracing
-  Data integration
-  Vulnerable people
-  Governance

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Responding effectively to COVID-19 is very much a team effort and we will continue to work in partnership with a range of organisations, including:

- **Public Health England**
- **Local Resilience Forum**
- **NHS Clinical Commissioning Group**
- **Joint Biosecurity Centre**
- **Swindon Borough Council and other neighbouring authorities**

Working closely brings a consistent and well-informed response and it's crucial this is well coordinated.





Effective governance will also play a critical part of the process. The South West Regional Directors of Public Health have committed to using consistent terms to describe the local governance arrangements:

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- COVID-19 Health Protection Board
- Local Outbreak Engagement Board

These will ensure that key decisions aren't made behind closed doors and that there is transparency, openness, accountability and scrutiny.

The COVID-19 Health Protection Board will be chaired by the Director of Public Health, Kate Blackburn. Responsibilities of this board include:

- manage information, coordinate and support the prevention of outbreaks
- regularly reporting to Wiltshire's Health and Wellbeing Board, the Local Authority Corporate Leadership Team as well as the Local Resilience Forum



Throughout this pandemic we've seen the importance of timely, accurate and high-quality data, and how it influences any response to managing and suppressing COVID-19.

We receive both Pillar 1 (confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital settings) and Pillar 2 data (confirmed COVID-19 cases in community settings) and this provides valuable insight into the number of cases of the virus in Wiltshire.

- Any data used will comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- The aim is for data to flow effortlessly from national, to regional, to local
- Data will be used to tailor response to the situation – taking into account things such as the type of people, businesses and communities that are involved – one size doesn't fit all
- We regularly review our local situation against the national COVID-19 alert system

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



We have senior officers, each experienced in their own field, representing the seven themes that are key to our plan. For each of their areas, such as care homes and schools, they will support the response should an outbreak occur, but also ensure the theme they represent is well-protected from having an outbreak in the first place. They will look at:

- **TRIGGERS** – what’s the data and evidence showing?
- **PREVENTION** – what can be done to stop COVID-19 spreading?
- **RISK** – which people are at most risk, what are the risk assessments saying?
- **RESPONSE** – what will the response be to an outbreak, how will it be managed?

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE



We know there are many people and families who need support during this pandemic and those identified in the ‘shielding’ category who are more at risk of catching COVID-19 than others.

There are other vulnerable groups within our communities. These include people with long-term physical or mental health conditions and those from black and minority ethnic groups.

To provide as much support as possible we will:

- Use local knowledge and data to identify them quickly
- Use any existing mechanisms or routes to contact them and ensure services can reach them
- Ensure those who need it can have information and guidance translated
- Recognise the impact any impairments that could impact them
- Work closely with partners and colleagues who have accurate up-to-date information for liaising with different communities
- Ensure key communications messages are consistent and targeted

TESTING AND TRACING

This is a vital system to control the virus and enable us to live not only a safer life, but a more normal one too.

Access to testing is one of the key tools which we need to be able to rapidly and effectively respond to any outbreak of COVID-19 in our area.

- We have a locally based regional testing centre based in Salisbury
- Residents of Wiltshire living in the north of the county can access testing in Swindon
- The sites have the capacity to test up to 2,000 people a day
- This is part of the national online portal offer with people receiving results within 72 hours.
- We have special arrangements to test staff and residents in care homes.

If there are positive test results in Wiltshire:

- This will trigger contact tracing, which will see people who have potentially been in contact with someone who has had COVID-19 spoken to by the tracing teams
- People that are contacted by a tracer should follow the advice and guidance received carefully
- A system is in place to ensure information is passed quickly and appropriately, so the relevant response plan can spring into action if required



COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

We may be currently socially distant, but we have developed a very close working relationship with you, the public, and local communities and businesses, since the start of the pandemic.

We have produced:

- a specific **COVID-19 webpage**
- regular e-newsletters to residents, businesses, community groups
- targeted mailouts
- media releases – www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news
- social media –

 **@wiltscouncil**

 **@WiltshireCouncil**

- information packs
- videos

Key elements of our approach will include:

- Keeping you up-to-date on the latest guidance
- Emphasis of your crucial role in any outbreak response
- Re-enforcing public health messages such as hand washing and social distancing
- Raising awareness of the support available to you should you need it
- Providing clear concise advice in the event of an outbreak

Sign up to our latest updates.

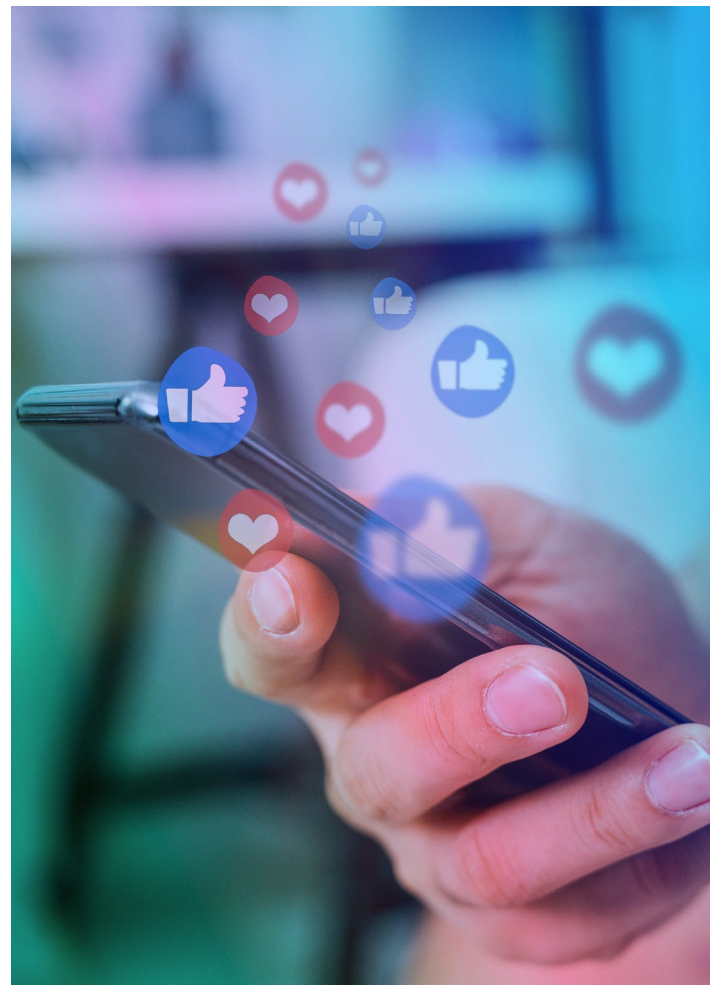
IN CONCLUSION

We want you to be reassured that we have a dedicated, highly skilled and experienced team responsible for ensuring our Local Outbreak Management Plan is implemented and embedded successfully.

Not only that, but we have partners who are experts in their own fields working with us side-by-side to help support the county to recover from this unprecedented time.

We too are reassured that you have been playing your vital part and following the Government guidance.

If Wiltshire continues to work together we can control the spread of the virus and make sure we can move forwards from the pandemic.





Wiltshire Council

