

Harrow Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) for COVID-19

Harrow Outbreak Control Board
March 2021

COVID-19 Introduction & Background:



This plan forms part of a suite of council and multi-agency plans that underpin the emergency preparedness, response and recovery (EPRR) arrangements. The council have updated key emergency plans with COVID considerations, to support managing an outbreak of COVID-19 within LB Harrow. It provides guidance for the Local Authority, in collaboration with multi-agency partners and the community to respond effectively to outbreaks of novel Coronavirus and variants that may arise within the borough. This plan is a live document and will be reviewed and revised by considering emerging Government policy, National & Regional guidance and best practice.

As outlined by London Resilience Group at the beginning of the pandemic, Coronaviruses are common globally and COVID-19 was identified as a new strain in Wuhan City China. It is an acute infectious viral illness that typically presents with symptoms such as fever, cough and potential progression to pneumonia causing shortness of breath. SARS-CoV-2 can cause more serious symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, the elderly and those with long term conditions and/or who are identified as clinically extremely vulnerable.

The Department of Health & Social Care published a Policy Paper outlining the Government Coronavirus Action Plan on 3rd March 2020, which outlined the planning principles in preparing for, and responding to a serious disease outbreak. The Government also published their COVID-19 Recovery Strategy on 11th May 2020 and the DHSC COVID-19 contain framework: a guide for local decision-makers (which was updated on 29th December 2020).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan/coronavirus-action-plan-a-guide-to-what-you-can-expect-across-the-uk>

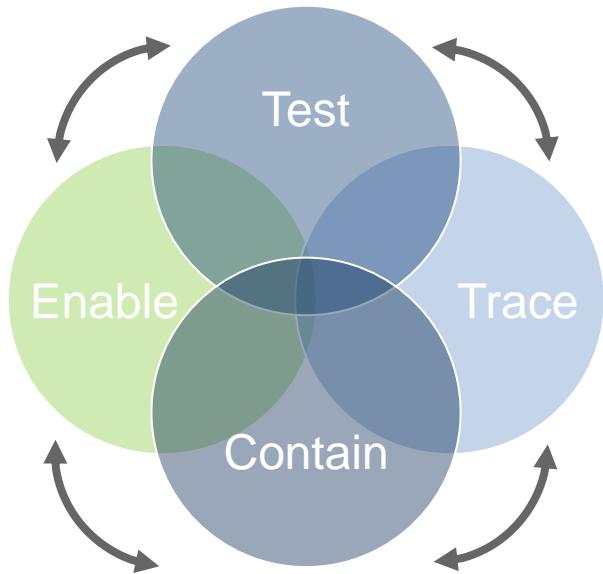
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers>

Note: The information contained in this document is correct at time of release but please note the rapidly changing position across these areas

The National Plan

An integrated and world-class Covid-19 Test and Trace service, designed to control the virus and enable people to live a safer and more normal life



- | | |
|---------|---|
| Test | Rapid testing, at scale, to identify and treat those with the virus |
| Trace | Integrated tracing to identify, alert and support those who need to self isolate |
| Contain | Identify outbreaks using testing and other data and contain locally and minimize spread |
| Enable | Use knowledge of the virus to inform decisions on social and economic restrictions |

Continuous data capture and information loop at each stage that flows through Joint Biosecurity Centre to recommend actions

Underpinned by a huge public engagement exercise to build trust and participation

Aims and Objectives



The aim of our Local Outbreak Management Plan is to describe the continued whole system approach to managing outbreaks of COVID-19.

The Aims & Objectives are:

- To continue to apply what we know about the extent of the pandemic in Harrow
- To identify prevention opportunities and support safer sectors (High Risk Settings; Health, Education, Care homes, Domiciliary Care, Early Years, Housing, Transport, Business including Retail, Leisure & Hospitality)
- To ensure good communication and engagement between partners and with the local communities of Harrow, reinforcing the ongoing importance and requirement of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) alongside testing and vaccination uptake
- To build on existing plans to manage outbreaks in specific settings, support enhanced contact tracing and optimise community testing within the borough.
- To consider the impact on local communities and continue to support community resilience, including those who may be vulnerable, underserved or requiring support during self-isolation and/or those 'living with COVID' (COVID secure)
- To identify actions needed to address surge capacity including any required response to any Variants of Concern (VOC's)
- To link with the mass vaccination programme for COVID-19
- To ensure continued data integration, surveillance, monitoring, information sharing and good practice.
- To ensure compliance, enforcement and clear governance on each aspect of response and recovery
- To ensure that our updated local outbreak management plan is in place and fit for purpose, as we move into the next phases of response and recovery, taking into account the Reasonable Worst Case Scenario (RWC) and borough multi-agency resources, capability and business continuity measures (which are not exhaustive).

The plan has been developed with input from the Harrow Health Protection Board. It is signed off by the Health Protection Board and completed on 8th March 2021

This Plan is iterative and will be regularly updated, as further evidence emerges.

Guiding Principles



The Harrow Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP), continues to be guided by the principles and legislative framework specified in the document below and signed by Association of Directors of Public Health, Faculty of Public Health, Public Health England, Local Government Association, Solace and UK Chief Environmental Officers Group.

There are four principles for the design and operationalisation of LOMP arrangements, including local contact tracing. There are stated below:

1. Be rooted in public health systems and leadership
2. Adopt a whole system approach
3. Be delivered through an efficient and locally effective and responsive system including being informed by timely access to data and intelligence
4. Be sufficiently resourced

Further details are specified in the attached document

<https://www.adph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Guiding-Principles-for-Making-Outbreak-Management-Work-Final.pdf>

In line with existing national pandemic planning guidance this plan is:

- Flexibly constructed to deal with a wide range of possibilities
- Based around an integrated, multi-sector approach
- Built on effective service and business continuity arrangements
- Responsive to local challenges and needs, and
- Supported by strong local and national leadership measures.

Assumptions

- We are on the exit path from the Pandemic Phase but it won't be plain sailing
- The virus is still circulating and we will enter an Endemic Phase but it won't be smooth
- The key priority is to suppress the virus as much as possible for the foreseeable future
- The next few months will be turbulent and volatile in terms of virus transmission, and we may see pauses in steps to exit. We need to be ready for this in terms of public trust, confidence and the epidemiological strategies to respond
- We will be living and working in a covid-endemic environment and we need multiple strategies to manage during this time (see section below)
- Variants and Recombinations of SARS-CoV-2 will continue to cause outbreaks and will require vaccine renewal on at least an annual basis

Definitions:

Pandemic: A pandemic is defined as "an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people"

Endemic: "the constant presence of a disease or infectious agent within a given geographic area or population group"

Outline of the 7-point plan



The Local Outbreak Control Plan remains centred on the original 7-point plan (2020)

- 1 Care Homes and Schools**
Prevent and manage outbreaks in specific individual settings (e.g. schools, care homes)
- 2 High Risk Workplaces, Communities and Locations**
Prevent and manage outbreaks in other high-risk locations, workplaces and communities
- 3 Mobile Testing Units & Local Testing approaches**
Deploy local testing capacity optimally
- 4 Contact Tracing in Complex Settings**
Deliver contact tracing for complex settings and cohorts
- 5 Data Integration**
Access to the right local data to enable the other 6 themes and prevent outbreaks
- 6 Vulnerable People**
Support vulnerable people and ensure services meet the needs of diverse communities
- 7 Local Boards** (including Communication & Engagement)
Take local actions to contain outbreaks and communicate with the general public

LOMP Themes

Within the 7-point Plan, the council have expanded the LOMP, to ensure it is focused on current key themes listed opposite.

These themes and our approaches are subject to amendment, due to the rapidly changing situation.

Core aspects of borough response & recovery include approaches to support:

- Community testing
- Self-Isolation
- Contact tracing & enhanced contact tracing
- Action on enduring transmission
- Responding to Variants of Concern (VOCs)
- Interface with borough vaccination roll-out
- Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)
- 'Living with COVID' (COVID secure)
- Addressing inequalities
- Inclusion health

Current Key Themes:

- High-risk settings, Care homes, bedded care, domiciliary care, supported living, hospitality, hospitals and education
- Vulnerable and underserved communities including BAME communities and homeless people (Find & Treat)
- Compliance & Enforcement
- Local Contact Tracing Partnerships
- Communications & Engagement: Keep London Safe
- Community Resilience
- Monitoring & Surveillance
- Data Integration & Information Sharing
- Governance & Roles/Responsibilities
- Capacity & Resources

1. Specific Settings such as Schools and Care Homes



Action cards provide information for each setting detailing the prevention tasks, as well as multi-agency response measures for a single case, a complex case or multiple cases in the setting.

Schools	Residential and Care Homes
High-Risk Settings	Early Years
Supported living	Tertiary education
Domiciliary care	Hospitality venues
Healthcare venues	Housing/Homeless

2. Communications & Engagement i

- General community communications
 - The council has ensured that robust, factual and up-to-date communications have been centric in supporting our Harrow response throughout the year to provide the latest guidance, knowledge, information and services. This will continue as we move forward, to reinforce Government messaging, whilst raising awareness, inspiring confidence and underpinning community cohesion .
 - National Comms/Guidance, Test & Trace & Keep London Safe programme
 - Council webpage
 - Regular Twitter/ Facebook posts
 - Regular promotion of testing sites and dates (including Mobile Testing Units) and vaccination centre information.
- London Communications programme
 - Keep London Safe
 - Keep Harrow Safe
 - Keep “your community” safe
- Specific Community
 - London COVID-19 Comms group is multilingual and the council are continuing to work with Region and other Local Authorities to ensure there are no gaps in centrally produced information, with regards to language requirements within Harrow
 - The Doctors of the World produce factsheets in over 30 community languages
<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/>
 - We have created area specific videos with partners.

Communications & Engagement ii

Communication and engagement with Harrow's diverse communities remain a mainstay of preventing and managing local outbreaks. The main emphasis of the communications and engagement arms have been to:

1. Relay and reinforce national messages from the government, NHS/Public Health England (PHE), as well as from the GLA (Keep London Safe programme)
2. Increase awareness of NHS Test and Trace, and inspire confidence in the contact tracing programme among Harrow's communities
3. Increase understanding of local testing arrangements, address mistrust and increase take-up of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, including within culturally and linguistically diverse groups.
4. Identify risks through insight generated by data and targeted engagement with communities, and address them through tailored and nuanced messaging, while creating trusted local advocates.



Real clinicians feature in adverts to promote vaccine uptake across London

The Public Health, Community Cohesion and Communications teams continue to work closely on a range of ongoing actions that amplify reach into communities and create local advocacy:

1. Monthly large-scale webinars targeting residents and community organisations, and delivering local updates on the Covid-19 situation and the vaccination rollout.
2. Targeted engagement meetings with community groups from segments of the population that have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19, as well as those experiencing higher degrees of vaccine hesitancy.
3. The co-production and targeted distribution of a range of multilingual communications material on Covid-19 safety, NHS Test and Trace, Rapid Lateral Flow Testing sites, and Vaccination Uptake, featuring trusted local leaders and medical professionals.
4. Work with Voluntary Action Harrow to fund a range of local community organisations for 'Harrow Covid-19 Awareness Fund' projects that will engage at risk-communities on Covid-19 messaging and vaccination take up. The grants totaling £225K is funded by MHCLG via a successful Harrow Council bid.

Communications & Engagement iv



Further pipelines of work currently being planned include:

- a) The co-production of an engagement programme with Black leaders from a range of community groups and faith organisations to reach out to Black, African and Caribbean residents to continue to address Covid-19 health (and wider) inequity and vaccination take-up.
- b) The setting up of a network of 'Covid-19 Volunteers' to relay Covid-19 messaging as well as vaccination related information to friends, families and neighbours.

Harrow Council website encompasses a dedicated COVID-19 communications platform, providing detailed information for residents including:

- The latest Government guidelines
- Latest service updates
- How to book a Rapid COVID Test or PCR Test
- Current COVID statistics within Harrow
- Information for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents who are shielding
- Reporting facility for breaches in COVID restrictions
- Support guidance and services for residents
- Support guidance and services for businesses
- Public Health & Testing information

The above can be accessed at: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19>

3. Understanding our Community

- Harrow's population is diverse with over 60% of the local population being from a BAME background. The local communities have been affected significantly by COVID-19 with Harrow having some of the highest rates in the country of both COVID-19 cases and deaths .
- Because COVID-19 affects older people with complex health conditions, care homes have been particularly affected. This is similar to the pattern seen nationally and internationally.
- People from BAME communities have also been disproportionately affected.
- Data is received from PHE which identifies information including post code and age of positive cases. We use mapping of cases to identify any local outbreaks or concerns.
- This data has been expanded to provide further data (non-identifiable) on cases to allow more in-depth analysis
- We have undertaken an assessment of the needs of the communities in terms of the test and trace.
- We have an established process to discuss the concerns of local communities. We successfully engaged the Somali community as our pilot last year and have built upon continued community engagement in all areas, over the course of the pandemic response.

Community Engagement



- We will continue to keep the local population updated about COVID-19 through our various media channels, focusing on ongoing community engagement and resilience.
- We have an engagement programme with minority communities to understand and address their concerns and to create local champions who can spread the messages within their communities.
- We have established regular engagement sessions with the Director of Public Health and her team. These include local voluntary & Charity sector, local community groups, Special school head teachers, school heads and governors, care/ residential homes, and other social care providers and with our own staff across the health and social care partnership.
- Language is a barrier to accessing many services. However, we are supporting the communities and have developed a number of local bespoke resources, using tailored imagery and assets from the London-wide COVID-19 communications group which have been exceptionally helpful .

Testing Strategy



Aim and Purpose of testing

- To **find** people who have the virus, trace their contacts and ensure both self-isolate to **prevent onward spread**
- **Surveillance**, including identification for vaccine-evasive disease and new strains
- To investigate and **manage** outbreaks
- To **enable** safer re-opening of the economy

Pillar 1 (NHS Settings):

PCR swab testing and LFD antigen testing in PHE and NHS labs (RT-qPCR, LAMP & quicker testing)

Pillar 2 (Mass Population/Community):

Mass symptomatic PCR swab testing (RT-qPCR) and asymptomatic VOC surge testing

Pillar 2 (Mass Population/Community):

Asymptomatic rapid antigen testing (Lateral Flow Device tests)

It is important to identify positive cases in Harrow as soon as possible, to control the spread of the virus. This is challenging, as the illness is contagious before symptoms appear and certain people may be asymptomatic.

Therefore, the role of testing within the borough remains vital as we move into the next phases of local pandemic response and recovery.

Symptomatic Testing Sites

The criteria the council used to assess the logistics for the set-up of symptomatic test sites in the borough were to:

- Ensure sufficient high-quality hard-standing to accommodate temporary testing building and other associated temporary buildings/portacabins
- Ensure location had vehicular access for deliveries and construction
- Ensure sufficient available parking in the vicinity for staff and visitors
- Assess areas identified in relation to areas of high rates of COVID-19 infection with consideration for easy access to achieve some degree of borough-wide coverage
- Consider impact on local residents, community groups and businesses, particularly in terms of not causing a nuisance, negative effects on road networks or increased risk of transmission
- Other required accommodation works such as additional parking restrictions
- Seeking advice of local ward members

Testing during Lockdown & Beyond



Increasing asymptomatic testing will play a vital role in enabling the route out of lockdown towards recovery and 'Living with COVID' within the borough. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing will become part of our regular daily routine in Harrow to:

- Identify the 1 in 3 people with COVID who have no symptoms
- Provide quick results (30 mins), to allow people to test routinely
- Allow accessibility via schools, employers and community test sites for ease of accessibility
- To allow for regular checks to ensure repeat negative results (and to isolate in the event of a positive result)

A negative test result does not override any of the latest government guidance to isolate and get a PCR test if anyone has symptoms. Nor does it negate the need to follow Hands Face Space guidance:

School staff, pupil household & support bubble regular rapid LFD testing

- From 8th March: Within first 14 days back at school, all Secondary, FE students & staff tested 3 times at school or college and once at home
- Primary staff given 2 x rapid tests each week to do at home
- From 15th March: Secondary staff & students given 2 x rapid tests each week to do at home
- As schools reopen: Twice weekly testing for parents, carers & support bubbles
- Parents & carers get tested at: workplace, local testing site or collection of home testing kit or new online order service.

There will be continued PCR testing for those with symptoms and as a confirmation of results of positive home LFD testing

3.1 Testing Capacity: Symptomatic testing



Free Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing for those with Coronavirus Symptoms

LB Harrow residents are eligible to book a test for COVID if:

- they are having COVID symptoms: fever and/or new and continuous cough and/or loss of or change to sense of taste or smell
- They are an 'essential worker' who is not having symptoms
- They have been asked by NHS Test & Trace or Harrow Council to have a test

How to book

- Tests can be booked via: National Testing Sites (or Home Test Kits) – via the online government portal or telephoning 119.
- To book a slot at a local testing site, or to order a home testing kit, residents must apply via the government portal. Alternatively, residents may call 119.
- Harrow locations are Harrow Weald Recreation Ground, Northolt Road Community Centre Testing Site (opposite South Harrow Police Station), Kenton Recreation Ground and the MTU at the Civic Centre

Further information can be accessed at: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-harrow-residents> .

The latest updates regarding testing within the London Borough of Harrow can be found at:
<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/coronavirus>

3.2 Testing Capacity: Asymptomatic testing



Rapid COVID Testing - Lateral Flow Testing (LFT):

To help locate infected residents and break the chain of infection, LB Harrow have introduced Rapid COVID testing for people who are not showing any symptoms of COVID. Rapid COVID testing, also known as a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) gives a positive or negative COVID result in approximately 30-40 minutes.

Rapid COVID testing is available on set dates at the following sites:

- St Anns Shopping Centre: [St Anns Shopping Centre, Harrow, HA1 1AT.](#)
- The Civic Centre (Buildings 5 & 6): [Civic Centre, Station Rd, Harrow HA1 2XY](#)
- Harrow Arts Centre: [Uxbridge Rd, Hatch End, HA5 4EA.](#)
- The Beacon Centre [Scott Crescent, Harrow, HA2 0TY](#)
- The Shree Swaminarayan Temple: [Wood Lane, London HA7 4LF](#)

The council want to test as many local people as possible which is why locations have been opened in Harrow where residents can be tested for COVID. Rapid COVID tests are available for people who:

- have no symptoms of COVID
 - are aged 12 and above (as at 31 August 2021)
- Further information including dates can be accessed
at: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/CORONAVIRUS-COVID-19/BOOK-COVID-TEST>

Testing in Specialist Settings (including special schools)

Guidance for leaders and others involved in the mass testing programme has been published for:

- special academies
- maintained special schools
- alternative provision (AP) academies, including hospital schools
- registered independent AP, including hospital schools
- pupil referral units (PRUs)
- specialist further education (FE) colleges
- non-maintained special schools (NMSS)
- independent special schools
- local authorities
- clinical commissioning groups
- community health staff working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

The information supplements the guidance in the [Testing handbook for schools and colleges](#), recognising that there are distinct issues for settings in the special school, specialist college and AP sectors. It is part of guidance and resources for schools and colleges to support preparations for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in education settings.

The Government has published separate guidance on [Mass asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges](#) that covers other aspects of the testing programme, for example, the daily testing of close contacts following a child or young person returning a positive test.

How Our Testing Strategy is Developing



Aim

- Assist in breaking chain of transmission
- Reduce levels of infection and support the Government's roadmap for gradual lifting of restrictions

Objectives

- To ensure we have sufficient testing capacity in the borough to match our testing ambition
- To ensure we are maximising uptake of testing capacity, particularly among the target cohort of key workers
- Consider the criteria for the location of the testing sites and rapid response team
- Ensure link to PCR and surge testing
- Ensure link to test and trace in support of self-isolation

Plan

- Shift from high volume mass testing sites by decommissioning booths and having fewer large testing sites to be able to open up more, smaller, localised provision with sufficient flexibility for surge testing and on-going role for testing, post-lockdown
- Fixed sites x5
- Mobile unit x1
- Rapid response – Covid Marshalls
- Community Pharmacy involvement
- Link to Community engagement plan and community champions

Timeline from Mass to Local Testing



Aim: To break chain of transmission & reduce levels of infection supporting gradual lifting of restrictions

Dec 2020 to Early Jan 2021



Early January 2021



Mid-February 2021

- Aim:** Test the whole Community
- Ambition:** 212,000 tests in 6 weeks

Phased plan:

- i) Before Christmas:
One mass testing fixed site in town centre to support retail and hospitality businesses,
SEN schools' pilot,
1x small site for council key workers and mobile trailer.
- ii) After Christmas
Four additional fixed sites. Response unit and ambulance
- iii) 11th Jan – Six weeks period starts

- Aim:** More focused testing
- Ambition:** 112,000 tests in 6 weeks

What changed:

- Schools to run their own testing,
- Schools closed 5th Jan
- Lockdown 6th Jan
- DHSC new focus on testing key workers and those unable to work from home

Action:

- Focused comms and engagement and Covid Marshall Team
- Reduced number of booths open on a day-to-day basis, review of costs

- Aim:** local testing
- Ambition:** 70,000 tests in 12 weeks (average 6,000/week)

What changed:

- Most businesses and many other large organisations to get LFT direct from Government
- Costs to be recovered for PPE
- Turnover
- Need to consider surge capacity for post lockdown
- Permanently closing booths in the larger sites
- SLA to be confirmed with community pharmacies

Testing Key Cohorts



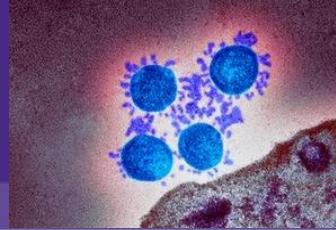
Institutional Testing Channel (These cohorts of people are vital for running country and cannot work from home)

- NHS and Primary Care
- Social care (care homes and domiciliary care)
- Education (schools/University)
- Private and businesses 250+ employees
- Food industry, energy sector, manufacturing, life sciences, water, waste and vets, hauliers, major supermarkets
- Large public sector
- Transport for London (TFL)
- DVLA
- Network rail
- Met police
- Fire Service
- Prison staff
- Looking at introducing courts
- Border force
- Civil service

Community Testing Channel (Priorities within these cohorts to focus on hard-to-reach groups at higher risk of infection)

- Self-employed and sole traders
- Education and childcare not covered by schools
- Public sector – our own staff and others until they have their own schemes up and running
- Charities and Voluntary Sector
- Local SME's <50 employees, delivering key services
- General Public (hard to reach groups at higher risk of infection)

Variants of Concern (VOCs)



Viruses naturally mutate over time and during the early response to COVID-19 pandemic a genome sequencing capability was established in the UK to monitor changes in the genome of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Over time, changes in the genetic code of the virus cause variations which can be transmissible and sometimes this may lead to viral behavioural change. Whilst most changes are not concerning, some Viruses under Investigation (VUIs), lead the Government to consider certain mutations as 'Variants of Concern' (VOCs).

Coronavirus is a large family of viruses and there are now multiple variants of the virus causing COVID-19 to circulate globally. Some variants appear to spread more easily and quickly than others, which may lead to more cases that in turn, may put more strain on healthcare resources, leading to more hospitalisation and potentially more deaths.

PHE are continually studying variants quickly to help control spread and understand the behaviour of new variants with the aim of establishing: transmissability, severity, detectability, response to pharmaceutical interventions and the effectiveness of current COVID-19 licensed vaccines against new VOCs.

Differences between a Variant of Concern and a Variant Under Investigation

According to Public Health England, SARS-CoV-2 variants, if considered to have concerning epidemiological, immunological or pathogenic properties, are raised for formal investigation. At this point they are designated Variant Under Investigation (VUI) with a year, month, and number. Following a risk assessment with the relevant expert committee, they may be designated Variant of Concern (VOC)

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-variants-genomically-confirmed-case-numbers/variants-distribution-of-cases-data>

Responding to VOCs



LB Harrow, alongside and with the support of PHE and NHS Test and Trace at regional and national levels, has a key role to play in the investigation, management and control of COVID-19 variants designated as 'Variants of Concern' or VOCs. The overarching purpose is to restrict the widespread growth of identified VOCs in the borough population by:

- Detecting, tracing and isolating cases to drive down overall community transmission, and
- Case finding additional VOC cases through whole genome sequencing to help assess the risk of community transmission and determine what further interventions and actions are necessary to contain the variant.

Determining Public Health Action- range of approaches						
Whole Genome Sequencing	Increase Symptomatic PCR Testing	Targeted Surge Asymptomatic PCR testing	Rapid & Enhanced Contact Tracing	Support for isolation	NPIs	Monitoring & Evaluation

Local Communications & Engagement in response to VOC outbreak:

- Locally led plan for culturally competent communications and community engagement
- Coordination of announcements and clear messages about purpose and restrictions in place during implementation of local variant control measures/surge activities
- Ensure alignment of national comms with local comms
- Managing the need to inform the public about VOCs without driving negative behavioural or psycho-social outcomes
- Harness existing community assets, networks and trusted messengers eg community champions
- Specific considerations include: an inbound helpline; a postcode checker on Council website

4. Surge Plans

- Director of Public Health and Consultant in Public Health will be the main contact point for PHE for notification of any VOCs and will lead the Incident Management Team.
- Incident management team will include PHE/LCRC and DHSC testing leads in addition to council departments involved.
- Enhanced contact tracing will accompany any surge testing for VOCs. If necessary additional staff will be brought into the call centre to facilitate this.
- Environmental Health Officers' (EHOs) and COVID Marshalls will support the investigations and surge testing as necessary.
- Escalation points for surge capacity/large outbreak planning have been developed and agreed, including recovery process.
- Mutual aid plans are developed by PHE LCRC and LAs
- Discussions between BRFs and LRF/SCG continue to take place to agree escalation points/mutual aid mechanisms

Surge testing for variants of concern

In the event of an identified case of a Variant of Concern, and in accordance with surge management plans Harrow council will :

- Establish an incident management team meeting with colleagues from PHE and DHSC testing team to agree approach and the area to be tested
- Engage with local communities including Community & Faith groups as necessary
- Align communication to the National campaign
- Utilise 3rd party (No 8) to carry out door to door test drops and collection services
- Optimise testing capacity
- Initiate mobilisation of Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) facility and/or repurpose Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) site within the designated area
- Distribute and collect home testing kits across the identified area/population group
- Support and/or adapt testing to target hard-to-reach groups where possible
- Develop SOP and ensure best practice
- Ensure ward Councillors and political leaders are aware of the surge testing.



4. Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is a long-standing core public health intervention measure to stop spread of infectious disease. It is used to identify those who may have been exposed to an infectious disease to either offer a prevention (e.g. vaccine or antibiotics or immunoglobulin) or recommend quarantine (in case of Covid-19).
- Contact tracing is a specialised skill and it is used in containment phases of the pandemic to prevent sustained community infection spread.
- Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 is contacted by NHS Test and Trace and are asked to self-isolate. They are also asked to identify any people they have in close contact within the days before they became symptomatic. Close contact is defined as being within 1 metre for 5 minutes or within 2 metres for longer than 15 minutes within 2m distance). These contacts would be advised to self-isolate too.
- Tier 3 – call handlers for communicating with contacts of cases.
- Tier 2 – NHS Health Professionals will contact all Covid-19 confirmed cases who do not respond to electronic request within 8 hours. The team will escalate to Tier 1 if more complex or meets certain criteria. After a further 24 hours, these will be referred for local contact tracing
- Local Tier 2 – The LB Harrow Contact Tracing Team is comprised of call handlers supported by specialist staff who have undertaken extensive training and provide the local contact tracing service. The team is able to deploy locally **Enhanced Contact Tracing** in partnership with HPT and provide risky venue alerts when/if required. The team has strong links with the LCRC and partner organisations to support the process
- Tier 1 – PHE Regional Centre (PHE LCRC) – All outbreaks in specific settings (schools, prisons, health centres, care homes) plus other complex outbreaks and all cases of variants of concern.

Identifying and Responding to Common Exposures



The council receive referrals and gather data including Common Exposure Reports, which are downloaded and shared with LB Harrow Environmental Health Officers, who along with our COVID Marshalls are pivotal in supporting the local Contact Tracing service.

- Common exposure reports are developed from 'backward' contact tracing information (the period 3 to 7 days before symptoms or being tested), and show:
 - places, events and activities visited/engaged in by cases during the period where they mostly likely acquired the infection
 - specific locations where cases may have acquired their infection, and which may justify further public health investigation
 - 'Common exposures' provide intelligence about specific locations where transmission may have occurred and the role of specific sectors
- Common exposure reports are used by EHOs to identify premises of interest, to ensure risk assessments etc are in place and to make sure they are COVID-19 secure, as well as carry out spot checks. The biggest issue from these to date has been around lack of mask wearing by customers (and some staff)

4. Contact Tracing in Complex Settings



For each of the complex settings action cards have been developed to assist with the prevention and management of an outbreak, with setting specific challenges in mind

Workplaces	Food manufacturing premises	Places of Worship
Healthcare settings	Homeless and hostels	Community clusters
Transport related	HMOs	Multigenerational households
Hospitality	Education	Care homes

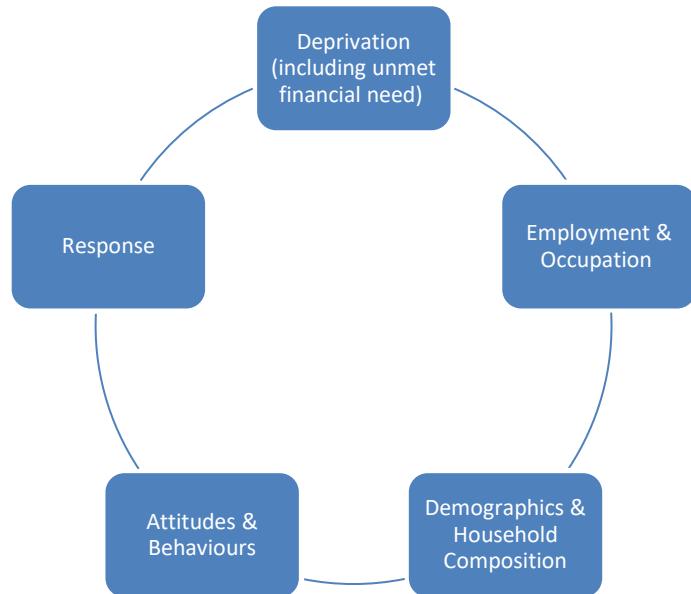
Enduring Transmission

In some places transmission has remained stubbornly high and above the national average for long periods of time, sometimes resulting in restrictions remaining in place, or being re-implemented shortly after they were relaxed.

Methodology identified a broad spectrum of factors that may be potentially contributing to the transmission of COVID-19. When looking at Enduring Transmission, we are differentiating between key events that might drive transmission (or its reduction), such as national lockdowns, return of schools/universities and those factors that have a continued impact. This includes both features of an area (e.g. demographic features) as well as practice, policy and response. It has been found that there is no single cause for ensuring COVID-19 transmission and many factors may be at play and are likely to contribute such as deprivation, employment, housing etc.

Key Factors & next steps include:

- Ongoing analysis
- Engaging and sharing information
- Consideration of measures such as self-isolation in terms of compliance and payments
- Continued preparation and strengthening of local response, in line with capacity and resources



- A number of risks have been identified by the CEOs and DsPH in North West London
 - Clarity of decision-making responsibilities between central and local government
 - The risks of lack of support for social isolation – payment systems are difficult and off putting to those most in need and despite the support payments there are concerns about employment security.
 - Funding: Continuation of infection control funding is needed to ensure that care homes and domiciliary care additional expenses are covered
 - Equality and pockets of enduring transmission – which links in with the risk of social isolation
 - The lack of clarity over the purpose of surge testing for VOCs – and the impact that this has on the ability to progress on recovery
 - National and London wide events such as elections, religious festivals (Ramadan, Passover and Easter) present issues over large gatherings risking transmission events
 - North West London has several specific challenges due to large venues and the presence of Heathrow Airport and of parliament in the sector. Major public events such as Notting Hill Carnival and the London Marathon, the opening of Wembley stadium (and other exhibition/concert venues including earls Court and Olympia) to large events, anti-government and other demonstrations. This influx of visitors and the use of the extensive public transport in the sector run the risk of local outbreaks and spread from endemic areas.

Local Risk Examples

Area	Service	Risks
Care Homes and Schools	Care Homes, Assisted Living, shared accommodation and supported care at home. Nurseries, Childminders, Primary, Secondary, Special and Colleges.	Any further outbreaks in residential settings would cause significant health and housing needs to enable groups of people to self isolate for 14 days. Failure in third party organisations applying all advice from local authorities and central government.
High Risk Work Places, Communities & Locations	Faith & Religious groups, Plants/Factory settings (such as Meat factories), Local businesses including hospitality, distribution centres, Homeless Shelters, HMOs, Hostels, Migrant workers and illegal/unregistered businesses.	Outbreaks in local businesses or factory settings such as Meat factories or distribution centres where staff work in close proximity together. Homes of Multiple occupancy or Hostel outbreaks could be due to failures in social distancing and shared living arrangements by private landlords.
Mobile Testing Units and Local Testing approaches	Multi agency response and service provision working with NHS Test and Trace.	Demand on services maybe overwhelmed and therefore, capacity/delivery of services hindered.
Contact Tracing Capacity & Mutual Aid	Working with multiple organisations to get a coordinated approach on contact tracing.	Lack of data on outbreaks could impact in response times and coordination of services respond.
Data Integration	Coordination of patient data working closely with other organisations.	Lack of data on outbreaks could impact in response times and coordination of services respond.
Vulnerable People	Vulnerable people such as those on the Shielded List, Adult Social Care, Children in or supported by social care, mental health and learning disabilities. Travellers, Young people, Homeless people, BAME, Minority speakers and language barriers.	Lack of PPE available for essential services where home visits are still required. Insufficient housing for outbreak in vulnerable groups. Communication failures leading to outbreak in hard to reach groups or communication breakdown to BAME or minority speaking groups.
Local Boards	Working closely with PHE and LCRC	Breakdown in communications between various organisations and groups could result in roles and responsibilities being misunderstood.

Legislation, Compliance & Enforcement



At present, there are limited powers given directly to Local Authorities to impose Lockdowns on the population level. Most powers under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the amended Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and associated regulations, give statutory responsibilities to Director of Public Health to plan and oversee outbreak control and management or detain individual cases that pose infectious risk to the general population, via designated 'Proper Officer', who is appointed by PHE London.

Schedule 22 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 provides further powers relating to events, gatherings and premises. For the purposes of preventing, protecting against, delaying or otherwise controlling the incidence or transmission of coronavirus or facilitating the most appropriate health care response, events or gatherings can be restricted or other requirements imposed and premises can be closed.

Schedule 21 of the Coronavirus Act provides extensive powers to public health officials (PHE's Proper Officer, police and immigration officers) that exist for the period that the Secretary of State has declared that: coronavirus constitutes a serious and imminent threat to public health in England, and that the powers conferred by the Schedule will be an effective means of delaying or preventing significant further transmission of coronavirus. *This is currently not passed on to Local Authorities.

5. Data Integration - GDPR



- The Secretary of State issued notices under the Health Service Control of Patient Information Regulations 2002 requiring the following organisations to process information: NHS Digital, NHS England and Improvement, health organisations, arm's length bodies, local authorities, GPs. These notices require that data is shared for purposes of coronavirus (COVID-19) and give health organisations and local authorities the security and confidence to share the data they need to respond to coronavirus (COVID-19).
- These can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-notification-of-data-controllers-to-share-information>.
- The data sharing permissions under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the statement of the Information Commissioner all apply. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) and the Contingency Planning Regulations, Category 1 and 2 responders have a duty to share information with other Category 1 and 2 responders. This is required for those responders to fulfil their duties under the CCA.
- For these reasons, agencies will assume they are required to adopt a proactive approach to sharing information by default, in line with the Instructions of the Secretary of State, the Statement of the Information Commissioner on COVID-19 and the Civil Contingencies Act.
- Local data sharing agreements have been developed.

Surveillance i

Overall surveillance

Incidence, Prevalence and Testing data

- Daily monitoring of rates and numbers of Covid-19 positive cases within the borough and identification of P1 and P2 caseload and clusters within the borough. This is presented in the COVID-19 Dashboard from various PHE reports that we receive
- Weekly and a rolling 7-day average of cases reported in a weekly report to identify trends and hotspots of the virus within the borough through monitoring of this by location (ward), age, gender and ethnicity
- A weekly analysis of testing numbers and rates, to identify trends and hotspots
- A weekly analysis of testing numbers and rates, to identify trends and hotspots
- Weekly geographical mapping of numbers and rates to identify hotspots and trends within the borough completed by our BI and GIS team
- Weekly geographical mapping of numbers and rates for uptake of testing , to identify trends and where uptake is low completed by our BI and GIS teams
- Further deep dives have been undertaken of both the first and second wave of the pandemic and used for briefings in Incident Management Meetings

Surveillance ii

Vaccination data

- Currently, vaccination data is still being developed by PHE and we are carrying out weekly geographical analysis of uptake
- Vaccination data has been analysed by age and ethnicity and confidence intervals have been used to see how similar the uptake within certain populations are similar to their proportions within the borough, however there are limitations to this as we are using population projections based on census 2011 data, and this as a result of COVID-19 will be an overestimate of our underlying population
- North West London Health and Care partnership produce a weekly vaccination report for all the 8 boroughs which uses GP registration data and is currently being used to monitor vaccination uptake

Reporting & Intel

All the reporting of above is available at across borough level so comparisons can be made, however for the more detailed reporting of within borough trends and hotspots we only have Harrow level data and analysis available, hence it would be useful to understand what is occurring on our borders and hence it may be useful to share intel, but there are regular North West London Director of Public Health sector meetings held, where this is also discussed

Waste-Water Analysis

We are currently in the process of analysing waste-water analysis, in supplement to the above

The surveillance and monitoring data feeds into the regular Harrow Council COVID-19 Dashboard which is produced weekly providing an overview of the current situation. This information includes the number of Test & Trace cases, Test & Trace contacts, Incidence rate (all ages), incidence rate in those aged 60 and over per (100,000 population) within the past 7 days and PCR Testing & Positivity rates (per 100,000 population). We also produce graphs indicating trends in case rates and comprehensive situational awareness reports.

In addition, regular Harrow Gold dataset reporting and Community Hub COVID-19 Activity data provides status reports on symptomatic & asymptomatic testing, vaccinations, enforcement and communications as well as Test & Trace data and information on business grant payments, housing/accommodation, Clinically Vulnerable Individual contact, Adult and Children's Social Care and food/other support

This information amongst other data underpins situational awareness to inform the borough pandemic response and recovery measures.

Local Partnership Engagement Teams



The Local Partnership Engagement Teams provide support to Local Authorities via:

Regular
Communications/Touchpoints

System Development

Training Content

Policy Updates

Outbreak taskforce details

Enhanced contact tracing

Regional tracing initiatives

Summary of the New Process Flow

- The Index Case record is made available to the National Contact Centre at the same time as the first invite is sent for the Digital Journey
- Call agents will be required to check if the Index Case has completed the digital journey before contacting the case.
- If contact is not made within 24 hours and/or 10 call attempts the Index Case is transferred to the Local Authority.
- LA & Tier 2 escalation process remains in place
- This process commenced on the 1st March 2021

6 Vulnerable People, Diverse & Underserved Communities i



- COVID-19 has brought some unprecedented challenges to the local authority and the health and care partnership, as well as to our local population.
- The council recognises the importance of supporting our vulnerable, diverse and underserved communities and has ensured continued engagement and communications to raise awareness of borough services, during response and recovery
- The council has contacted over 25,385 Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) people in the borough as of March 2021, ensuring that they are supported and have what they need to assist them throughout the pandemic.
- The Help Harrow Portal is available for anyone that has been affected by COVID-19 needing support. The community response has been enormous with hubs providing food, helping with shopping, picking up prescriptions and provision of social and emotional support, such as virtual befriending, and bereavement support. We recognise that people are being asked to isolate as a result of the test and trace system. Our current offer is available to them.
- We are also working with local employers to encourage them to continue to support and employ any staff who have to isolate as a result of contact of someone with COVID-19.

6 Vulnerable People, Diverse & Underserved Communities ii



- People with learning disabilities and/or mental health problems are one of the vulnerable groups that are of concern. The council and NHS in Harrow has arranged for testing of the residents living in residential care and the staff who work there. This will ensure that we have identified anyone with the virus reduce transmission.
- Throughout the pandemic, the council has been proactively identifying rough sleepers and other homeless people. They have been found temporary accommodation and more secure accommodation. This route can also be used for people who cannot self-isolate .
- Our BAME community groups are working closely with the council to identify any continuing issues of concern within the community. They are using social media to identify myths and misinformation whilst providing factual, accurate, evidence-based information and myth-busting advice.
- Specific areas of focus for supporting our vulnerable and underserved communities include accessibility to testing, raising cultural awareness, providing targeted communications and interventions including targeted support to community groups such as webinars for communities of black heritage, Tamil & Somali, support for residents experiencing homelessness as well as those with disabilities and residents identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV), who have been advised to shield.

Rough Sleepers

Rough sleepers are being placed into self-contained emergency accommodation and are therefore able to self-isolate

Homeless Accommodation

All families and a large proportion of single homeless people are placed in self-contained accommodation and therefore able to self-isolate. Most B&B accommodation utilised by the council is now running at reduced capacity in order to be COVID-safe.

Shared Accommodation

Consists of a small proportion of the council's temporary accommodation portfolio with 69 (6%) of residents currently in such accommodation. The council would move anybody at risk into self-contained emergency accommodation.

Multi-Generational Dwellings

In relation to MG Dwellings, the council does not use such premises for temporary accommodation. However, if a resident living in private rented sector accommodation is at risk, we would look at moving them into self-contained emergency accommodation.

Self-Isolation

- Support for those in Self-Isolation includes targeted communications to raise awareness
- Tackling employers who are found to be unsupportive of the self-isolation process
- Practical and wrap-around support to enable people to comply with self-isolation
- Test & Trace Support Payments. If residents meet the qualifying criteria set by DHSC they are signposted to the council's website <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/test-trace-support-payment>
- Those applying for support payments are verified by the council and if successful, they are awarded £500.00
- Discretionary support payments can also be applied for those experiencing financial hardship due to loss of income due to self-isolation
- The benefits team also process Hardship applications. These are not COVID-19 specific but are often from people impacted by Coronavirus and potentially self-isolating
- Residents can contact the council COVID line and request food parcels including hot meals. Details of the household and their dietary requirements are taken and delivery is arranged
- LB Harrow also make referrals to Help Harrow, for food parcel deliveries
- Welfare support to residents includes bereavement services, self-isolation payment information and call back facility for residents to have someone to talk to.
- Last but not least, LB Harrow liaise with our voluntary groups who provide support should residents require assistance with medication etc. <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/help-support>

Vaccination i

- The COVID-19 vaccination programme being rolled out across Harrow is based on the nationally decided priority groups in line with the Joint Committee of Vaccination & Immunisations (JCVI) advice.
- The JCVI advises that the first priorities for the COVID-19 vaccination programme should be the prevention of COVID-19 mortality and the protection of health and social care staff and systems. Secondary priorities include vaccination of those at increased risk of hospitalisation and at increased risk of exposure, and to maintain resilience in essential public services.
- Details of the LB Harrow Vaccination Centres are provided on the council website <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-vaccinations>
- The deployment of vaccines offers the opportunity to manage the epidemic locally, whilst we gradually lift many of the restrictions which currently apply.
- Measures are being taken via our Director of Public Health, Public Health Team, Communications Team and multi-agency partner organisations to Harrow residents, raising awareness of the importance of vaccination whilst continuing to improve uptake locally.
- The Harrow Health Protection Board meets regularly and discusses local progress with regards to the vaccination programme.

Vaccination ii



The London borough of Harrow is continuing to work proactively to reduce inequalities by identifying and addressing barriers to access and uptake of vaccination. Multi-agency partners have been working together to raise awareness of the programme and ensure residents have all the information they need to proceed with their vaccination when invited to do so.

The council COVID vaccination webpage provides details regarding:

- NHS guidance and Government advice
- Booking service guidance (how it works)
- Eligibility criteria
- Priority groups
- Vaccination centres
- Easy-read leaflets and posters
- FAQ's and Myth Busters about vaccination

This information can be accessed at: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/vaccinations>

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions



The continued role of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) is essential to underpin infection control within the community during the next phases of response and recovery. NPIs are actions that can be taken to reduce community transmission and continue to slow the spread of Coronavirus in Harrow.

Types of NPIs range from simple interventions such as regularly washing hands, wearing a face coverings, keeping space to restrictions such as bans on household mixing (apart from support bubbles), working from home, online teaching, closures of non-essential retail and businesses such as hospitality, in accordance with Government guidance.

As the vaccination roll-out continues at pace, the importance of ongoing adherence to specific NPIs is being communicated by our Director of Public Health & the Communications Team now that we are entering the Government's 4 Step Roadmap for Easing Lockdown, announced on 22nd February 2021

COVID-19 Contain Framework i



The DHSC COVID-19 Contain Framework: A Guide for Local Decision-Makers was last updated in December 2020 and sets out how national and local partners will work with the public at a local level to prevent, contain and manage outbreaks. Successful management of local outbreaks is a core element of NHS Test and Trace's ambition to break the chains of COVID-19 transmission to enable people to return to and maintain a more normal way of life.

Local governance of COVID-19 outbreak plans builds on existing practice. As outlined in the Framework, the COVID-19 Health Protection Board provides public health leadership and infection control expertise, linked to the PHE regional lead, NHS, environmental health and other key partners. The DPH is responsible for the local outbreak plan and the local gold (Strategic Coordination Group) provide resource coordination, and link to NHS Test and Trace.

The council Chief Executive is responsible for the deployment of resources and liaison with the LRF (for example, for mutual aid), and with Whitehall via Regional Support and Assurance teams.

COVID-19 Contain Framework ii

Ongoing monitoring both locally and nationally is critical to help prevent, identify and contain outbreaks.

Local DPH teams and PHE will have good situational awareness and are best placed to monitor and identify potential issues in their area. Local authorities will also be able to draw on information and resources provided by the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) and PHE, established to provide analytical support and advice on outbreak control measures. An increasing number of dashboards are available locally, and to the public, so that data and insight can inform actions.

Responsibilities outlined within the framework

- Director of Public Health: statutory duty for local outbreaks
- Gold group: local strategic coordination group at a UTLA level, usually chaired by council chief executive
- Health protection teams: local teams providing support to health professionals including local disease surveillance.
- Joint Biosecurity Centre: the JBC has 2 main roles – to provide an analytical function with real-time analysis about infection outbreaks and to advise on how the government should respond to spread of infections

- K-Hub – LGA Knowledge Hub: online sharing community
- Local Outbreak Control Board (or equivalent): local leader-led governance responsible for political and public leadership including stakeholder engagement
- Local outbreak plan: UTLA's plan to deal with local outbreaks
- NHS Test and Trace: service established to track and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in England
- Regional support and assurance teams: act as a link between local and central government; in cases of an outbreak will provide an additional resource
- SOLACE: members' network for local government and public sector professionals
- Strategic Coordination Group or Gold (SCG): meeting to respond to major incidents, can be at an LRF level or a local authority level, responsible for resource deployment, coordination and direction with partners
- Upper tier local authority (UTLA): for example unitary metropolitan and county councils; responsible for leading local outbreak planning

Local Roles & Responsibilities

Place Based Leadership

Local

LA Chief Executive, in partnership with Director of Public Health (DPH) and PHE HPT to:

- Sign off the Outbreak Management Plan led by the DPH
- Bring in wider statutory duties of the Local Authority (e.g. DASS, DCS, CEHO) and multi-agency intelligence as needed
- Hold the Member-Led Covid-19 Engagement Board (*or other chosen local structure*)

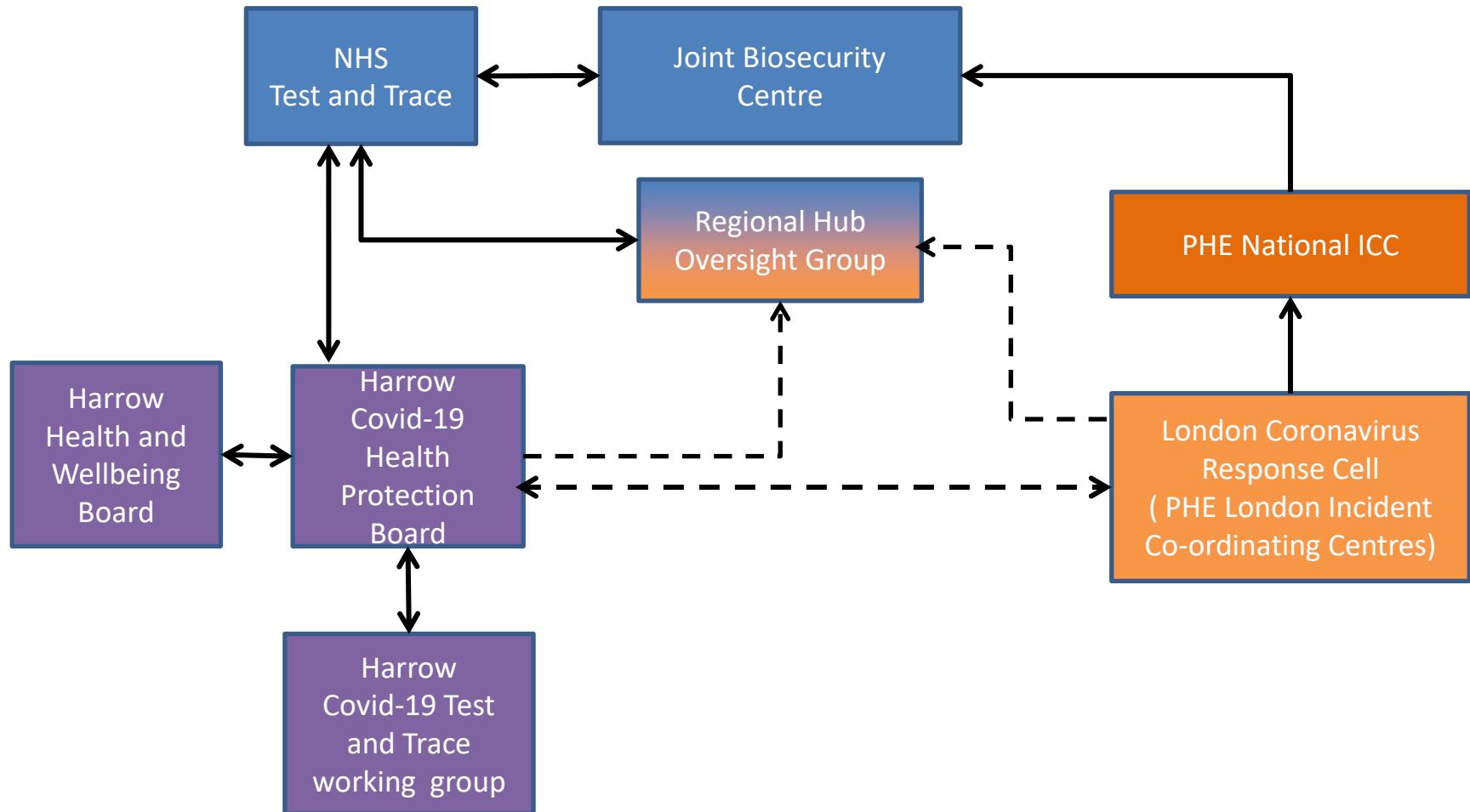
Public Health Leadership

Local

Director of Public Health to:

- Produce and update the Outbreak Management Plan and engage partners
- Review the data on testing, contact tracing and vaccine uptake
- Manage specific outbreaks through the outbreak management teams including rapid deployment of testing with the PHE HPT
- Provide local intelligence to and from LA and PHE to inform tracing activity
- Convenes DPH-Led Covid-19 Health Protection Board (a regular meeting that looks at the outbreak management and epidemiological trends in the place)
- Ensure links to LRF/SCG & BRF

The diagram shows the governance structure for Test and Trace and Outbreak management. It highlights the complexity of the system and the wide number of agencies involved.



Local Governance Arrangements



- Chaired by DPH with membership from local partners
- Responsible for the production and maintenance of the OCP, action on prevention of COVID-19, and for the action to be taken in response to an outbreak

Harrow
Health
Protection
(Covid-19)
Board

- Chaired by the Leader of the Council
- To receive reports from the C-19 Control Board
- Political and partnership oversight of strategic response and communication with the public

Harrow
Health
and Well-
being
Board

- Supported at a national level by Government Departments, including national PHE team, and Joint Biosecurity Centre and at a regional level by London Coronavirus Response Cell, Local Resilience Forums and Integrated Care Systems (e.g., for mutual aid and escalation)

National
and
regional
support

Harrow
Resilience
Forum

- Chaired by Chief Executive of Council with all first line responders in attendance
- Responsible for determining Council's overall response to emergency planning, including deployment of local resources and escalate need for mutual aid, if needed.

The Harrow Health Protection Board (HPB)

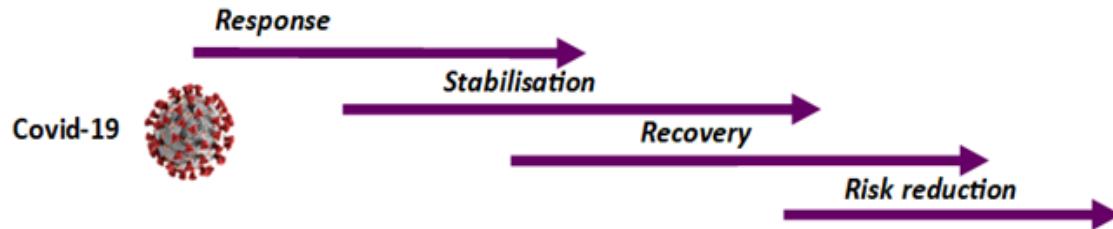
Key areas of leadership going forward:



The Harrow Health Protection Board consists of multi-agency membership and meets monthly (or by exception). The Board will continue to take responsibility for the production and maintenance of the LOMP, action on prevention of COVID-19, and for the action to be taken in response to further outbreak. The Board will also focus on recovery, management of ensuring transmission and 'Living with Covid', as we move through the next phases of pandemic.

Key aspects of this process will involve monitoring the following over the coming months:

- Test/Trace & isolate performance
- Positivity (indicator of transmission)
- The R Rate (indicator of transmission)
- Vaccine uptake
- High Risk Setting epidemiology
- Clear protocols for opening the economy and everyday life
- Schools' epidemiology and safety
- Economy & workspaces
- Health & Social Care
- Hospitality, retail and housing
- Vulnerable & underserved communities including CEV individuals
- Monitoring, Surveillance & Data
- Communications
- Enforcement & legislation
- Governance



LB Harrow Covid-19 Stabilisation & Recovery Note
M Shaw, LB Harrow EPRR (2020)

In line with the Government's Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy (May 2020), the overarching aims of Harrow council are to assist in shaping local recovery, dependent upon capacity and resources. Key aspects for consideration include:

- Reversing the pattern of rising unemployment and lost economic growth caused by the economic scarring of COVID-19
- Support our community, including those most impacted by the virus
- Provide opportunities for young people
- Narrow social, economic and health inequalities
- Deliver a cleaner, greener Harrow

Further National & Regional recovery guidance can be found

at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

Recovery ii

Local reflections on recovery and return to Business as Usual (BAU) include, but are not limited to:

- The continued development of planning for the reopening of social and economic life within the borough.
- Business Continuity Planning including workforce planning, resources and capacity.
- Impacts on council staff and the resumption of more BAU activities.
- A strategic approach to supporting local business recovery
- Monitoring of the continuing financial impacts of the council's COVID-19 response and recovery
- Continued monitoring and surveillance
- Continued risk assessment and mitigation
- Forward planning, training and exercising for potential escalation to deal with future waves and surge management within Harrow
- Planning for the management of enduring transmission within the community and continued support for vulnerable residents and those severely impacted by the pandemic.
- Support requirements from National & Regional Teams including LCRC & NHS Test & Trace

Recovery iii

Additional Critical Success Factors to support Recovery:

- Mental Health Services
- Drugs & Alcohol and Sexual Health Services
- Children's Services (0-19)
- NHS & Social Care Services
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Public Services
- Public Health strategies
- Multi-agency partnership working and borough resilience
- Population knowledge and co-operation
- Cross-boundary working
- Businesses embracing COVID safely for the medium term

4-Step Roadmap for Lifting Restrictions



The route back to a new normality:

The Government has announced that restrictions will begin to lift in England from 8th March 2021 which we are hopeful will lead to a route back to a more normal life. There are 4 conditions to the easing of lockdown measures:

- Continuation of successful vaccine deployment
- Evidence shows that vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations, thereby putting unsustainable pressure on the NHS
- The assessment of risks is not changed by Variants of Concern (VOCs)

Forward view:

Once restrictions have been lifted, the council will provide information on the continuation of the recovery process and what this all means for Harrow residents, as well as any changes to services we deliver going forward.

Full details of the Roadmap can be found in the following guidance: COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021 Summary published 22/02/2021 [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary)

Step 1:



HM Government

8 MARCH

STEP 1



EDUCATION

Schools and colleges open for all students
Practical Higher Education courses

BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES

Wraparound care, including after school sports, to enable parents to work

SOCIAL CONTACT

Exercise and recreation with your household or one other person in a public outdoor place e.g. picnic or coffee

Household only indoors

Care home residents in England can nominate a single named visitor for regular visits

LARGER EVENTS

Funerals (30 people)
Weddings and wakes (6 people)

TRAVEL

Stay at home
No domestic or international holidays

Step 2



HM Government

NO EARLIER THAN 12 APRIL

At least 5 weeks after Step 1

STEP 2



BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| All retail | Self-contained accommodation |
| Personal care | All children's activities |
| Libraries and community centres | Outdoor hospitality |
| Most outdoor attractions | Indoor parent and child groups
(up to 15 people, excluding under 5s) |
| Indoor leisure inc. gyms
(individual or household use only) | |



LARGER EVENTS

- Funerals (30 people)
Weddings, wakes, receptions (15 people)
Event pilots



TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays (household only)
No international holidays

Step 3



HM Government

NO EARLIER THAN 17 MAY

At least 5 weeks after Step 2

STEP 3



BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)



SOCIAL CONTACT

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Indoors: Up to 6 people or a larger group from 2 households only (subject to review)



LARGER EVENTS

- Most significant life events (30 people)
- Indoor events 1,000 people or 50% capacity (whichever is lower)
- Outdoor events 4,000 people or 50% capacity (whichever is lower)
- Large seated outdoor venues 10,000 people or 25% capacity (whichever is lower)



TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)

Step 4



HM Government

NO EARLIER THAN 21 JUNE

At least 5 weeks after Step 3

STEP 4

BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES

Remaining businesses,
including nightclubs
(subject to review)

SOCIAL CONTACT

No legal limit
(subject to review)

LARGER EVENTS

No legal limit on life
events
(subject to review)

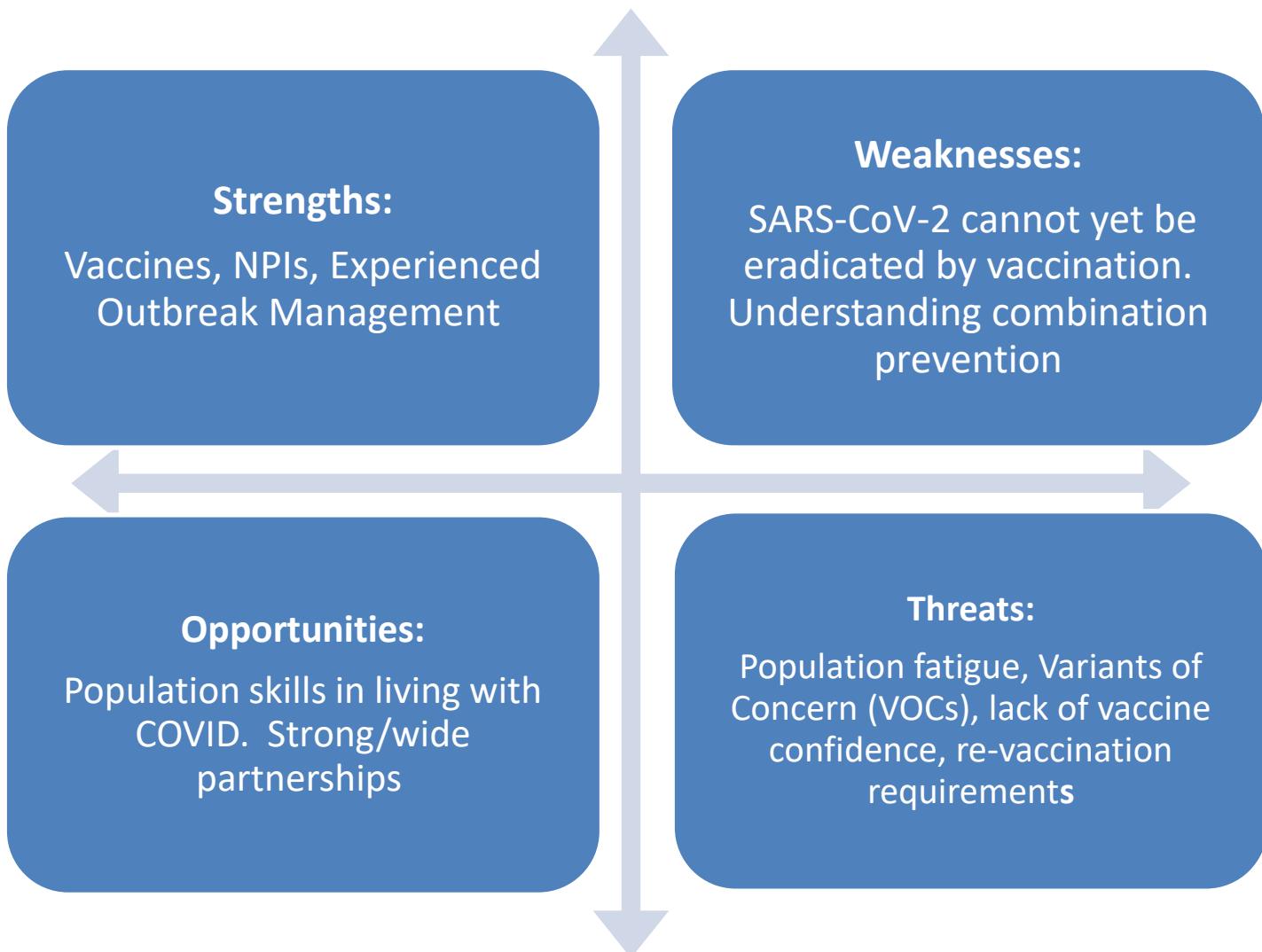
Larger events
(subject to review)

TRAVEL

Domestic overnight
stays
(subject to review)

International travel
(subject to review)

COVID Strategic Environment for 2021



Moving Towards a Sustainable Exit from Pandemic



Living Safely with COVID-19

It is likely we will have to live alongside COVID-19 and its variants for some time to come, however the aim is that we can live safely alongside any circulating virus without the need for severe lock-down restrictions, as we move towards through the next phases of pandemic by:

- Reducing transmission to the stage where we can exit lockdown
- Choosing a well-articulated, gradual 'opening up'
- Continuing monitoring, modelling, surveillance and adjustment
- Continuing improvements in and adjustments to vaccines and treatments

We will need to continue to reduce transmission within the community and suppress the virus and its variants, whilst enabling and sustaining the reopening of sectors within the borough.

When considering NPIs, it is extremely important that we continue to take sensible precautions such as good hand hygiene, wearing face coverings, practicing social distancing and undertaking regular testing, to avoid any return to more severe restrictions in the future.

The Ability to Live Alongside COVID



- Reduction of risk within a COVID environment, for individuals, employers, high risk settings, workplaces, educational, health and care home settings etc. (Community Engagement)
- Easy accessibility for testing within the borough
- Continued Self-isolation support
- Measures to manage enduring transmission
- Promotion of a 'can do' approach to enhance motivation as we move forward, based on the embedded culture of community safety and resilience
- Continued surveillance & monitoring
- Supportive system for the community including cross-boundary working & engagement
- Continued prevention including vital Pharmaceutical and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) involving vaccines, testing, hand hygiene, face coverings, maintaining social distancing measures, self-isolation & contact tracing/enhanced contact tracing
- Compliance and enforcement
- Events planning
- Continued clear and refreshed communications that dovetail with National and Regional Comms, to support the people of Harrow to understand the skills they will need to live with COVID now and in the future
- Easy, Attractive, Socially Desirable and Timely (EAST)
- Focus on proactive risk assessment & management and understanding of 'risk budgets'. Articulation of council key strategies to reduce risk through the next phases of response and recovery.
- Testing/Exercising & evaluation of learning outcomes and opportunities presented by COVID-19, to assess positive impact and local response effectiveness as part of the Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery and Business Continuity planning cycles.
- Ensuring we continue to support equity, equality and diversity

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion



Following the release of the Public Health England (PHE) report on disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in June 2020, particularly amongst Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, London Directors of Public Health have responded with health and care partners at Local, Sub-Regional & Regional levels.

Examples of work that Local Authorities have implemented following PHE's 7 recommendations include:

- Community engagement with culturally specific COVID-19 public health messaging through community champions
- Culturally sensitive occupational risk assessments
- Local conversations amongst public health staff on racism and health inequalities following the death of George Floyd in the US in May 2020
- Behavioural insights research on attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccines, questions and fears among diverse communities across London
- Engaging with local communities on COVID-19 vaccine uptake in a culturally sensitive way through social media, webinars, community champions and health care professionals, and translated comms.

Emerging priorities that are being addressed on inequalities during and beyond COVID-19 are:

- Improved access to vaccination data between NHS and local authorities to help inform understanding of vaccine access and hesitancy as the NHS vaccination programme continues to rollout with additional priority cohorts
- Recovery planning and understanding the wider impacts post second wave in responding to health inequalities

Further PHE information regarding the disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 can be found at:

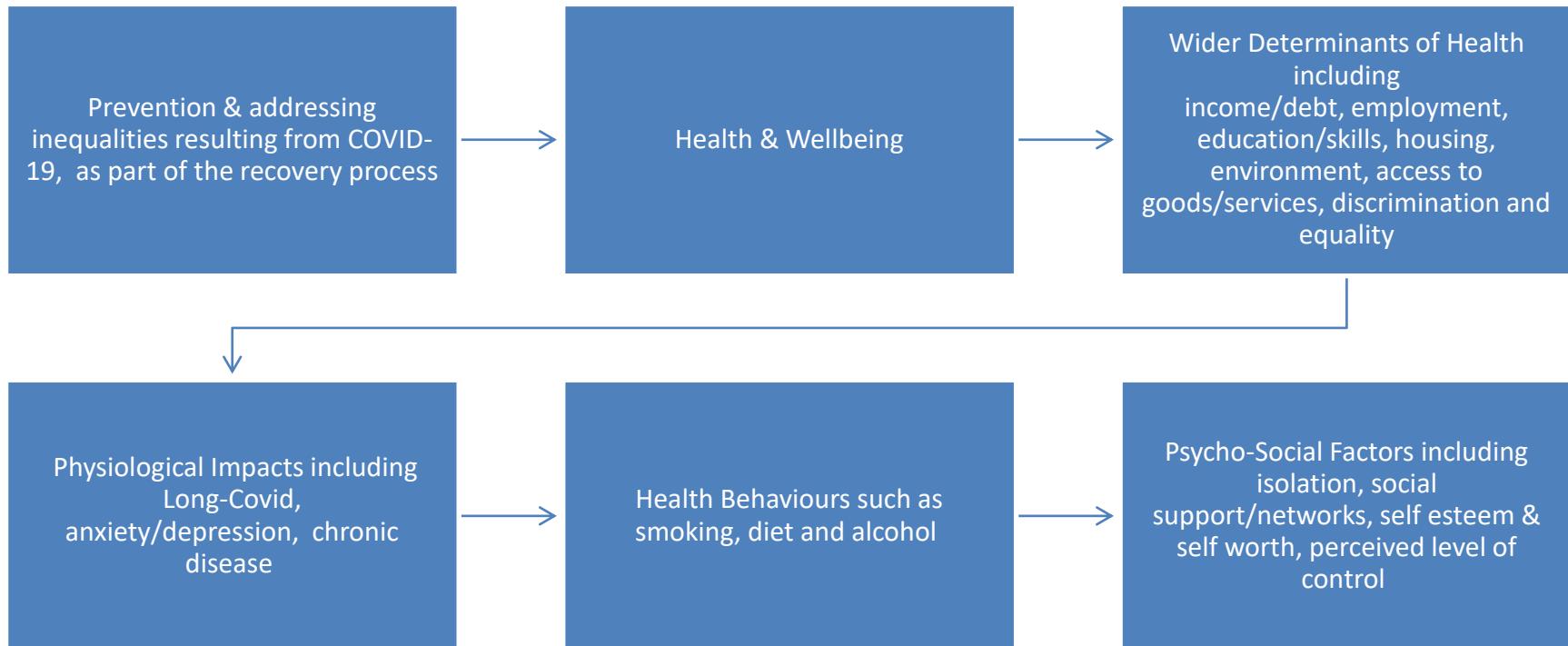
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf

London COVID-19 Find and Treat Service (F&T)

The Find and Treat service, provided by a team from University College Hospitals, is jointly funded by all of London's Local Authorities and the Greater London Authority (GLA) and provide the following for rough sleepers, homeless hostels, hotels, night-shelters, pay to sleep, large houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and day centres:

- **Outreach testing and contact tracing:** Telephone clinical triage and on-site testing triggered by reporting of symptomatic cases, testing of contacts and immediate infection control advice on site liaising with the London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC).
- **Variants of concern (VOC):** Should VOC postcode surge areas include any homeless or inclusion health settings F&T can support local surge testing.
- **Training and support:** Provision of training for testing and contact tracing for key local staff (e.g., nominated street outreach workers, and others with key trusted relationships).
- **Sentinel screening:** Testing residents and staff of high-risk locations (e.g., prioritised based on size, shared facilities etc.) to actively monitor the level of asymptomatic carriage. VOC testing data will be collated with sentinel testing.
- **Vaccination:** Vaccination of the homeless population and support to address wider healthcare needs (NHS funded)
- The amount of training and sentinel screening undertaken will vary depending on the quantity of reactive outreach work (the focus since December has been entirely on outreach testing, and outbreak support).
- Find and Treat are also funded (via NHSE) to provide outreach testing and contact tracing to asylum hotels in London (funded until end March 2021).
- We are currently working through the future delivery model needed (beyond 25th June 2021 when current funding ends) in anticipation of continuing infections and potentially outbreaks, particularly as vaccination uptake in this group is challenging.
- We will continue to collaborate with local authorities across London to understand and address the ongoing needs for these populations.

Prevention & Addressing Inequalities Resulting from COVID-19 Pandemic



Modified Diagram – Adapted from Prof. Chris Bentley

Our approach to working with communities

Harrow council and our partners are extremely proud of the role our communities have played in facing the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and how they have responded to local needs during these unprecedented times.

Community cohesion and resilience is vital as we move out of pandemic phases, towards recovery and 'Living with COVID' and the council is focused on continued community engagement, listening to how people want the community to change and what part the community want to play in planning and developing our future.

Key insights & aspects into forward planning and action will include:

- The role of Health & Social Care in recovery during and beyond COVID-19
- Assessing what may be required locally (e.g. bereavement, mental health, children & young people, vulnerable people, business etc.,) and supporting where possible, in line with available resources and capacity
- Continued borough communication and engagement
- Understanding which community groups should be prioritised, in terms of available support
- Continued coordination of planning, response & recovery in accordance with guidance
- Ensuring widespread medium & long-term community engagement, beyond the crisis to further embed community resilience in Harrow
- Ensuring our pandemic planning, response & recovery is Precautionary, Proportionate and Flexible in line with current and emerging national and regional guidance



KEEP GOING HARROW – TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

This plan is a live document which will continue to be updated and amended when new guidance or new evidence emerges.

This version was published in March 2021

**Any comments or clarifications please contact
publichealth@harrow.gov.uk**

Legislation, Guidance & Policy



Harrow Council is a Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) and adheres to the roles and responsibilities set out in legislation, guidance, policies and publications. The UK Government Primary & Secondary Coronavirus legislation can be accessed at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Further useful Legislation, Regulations & Guidance (this list is not exhaustive)

- *HM Government Our Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy May 2020*
- *Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020*
- *Coronavirus Act 2020*
- *Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984*
- *Department of Health & Social Care Coronavirus Action Plan: A Guide to what you can expect across the UK March 2020*
- *Department of Health & Social Care COVID-19 Framework: A Guide for Local Decision-Makers (updated 29th December 2020)*
- *London Resilience Novel Coronavirus Response Framework V.1.0 February 2020 (Interim)*
- *House of Commons Briefing Paper: Testing for COVID-19 May 2020*
- *London Resilience Partnership Pandemic Influenza Framework V.7.0 May 2018*
- *NHS England Operating Framework for Managing the Response to Pandemic Influenza December 2017*
- *Department of Health UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy November 2011*

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

