

Team Devon Local Outbreak Engagement Board

TEAM DEVON (LOCAL OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD)

Wednesday, 29th July, 2020

A meeting of the Team Devon (Local Outbreak Engagement Board) is to be held on the above date at 11.00 am.

AGENDA

- 1 <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
- 2 Notes of the Previous Board Meeting (Pages 1 10)
- 3 <u>Feedback / Urgent Items from the Health Protection Board</u>
 Director of Public Health to report.
- <u>National Updates (Contain Framework and Action Cards)</u>
 Update from the Director of Public Health.
- 5. <u>Communications Strategy</u>

Head of Communications and Media to report.

- 6 <u>Local Member Protocol</u>Head of Communications and Media to report.
- 7 Public Questions / Questions for the Board
- 8 Key Messages to be Communicated
- 9 <u>Frequency of Meetings</u>
- 10 Dates of Future Meetings

12 Aug 2020 @ 11.00 am 26 Aug 2020 @ 11.00 am 10 Sep 2020 @ 11.30 am 23 Sep 2020 @ 11.00 am 7 Oct 2020 @ 11.00 am

Membership

Councillors J Hart (Chair), A Leadbetter (Vice-Chair), R Croad and J McInnes

Co-opted Members

D Crump (Living Options), T Gravett (Healthwatch), Dr P Johnson (Devon Clinical Commissioning Group), J Kay (Deputy Vice Chancellor of University of Exeter), Dame S Leather (Independent Chair of STP), S MacKney (Petroc), Councillor J Pearce (South Hams District Council), R Roberts (Visit Devon), S Sawyer (Chief Constable of Devon & Cornwall Police), C Stobart (Devon Association of Local Councils (Towns & Parish Councils)) and S Wilkinson (Chief Executive, Devon Community Foundation)

Access to Information

Any person wishing to know any further information about the meeting including minutes, reports or background papers should contact Karen Strahan or Stephanie Lewis on 01392 382264.

Internet

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Induction loop system available



Team Devon Local Outbreak Engagement Board

Decision and Action log

TEAM DEVON (LOCAL OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD)

Date Wednesday, 15 July 2020

Date We

Councillor John Hart, Councillor Andrew Leadbetter, Councillor Roger Croad, Dr Paul Johnson, Councillor James McInnes, Professor Janice Kay CBE, Dame Suzi Leather, Councillor Judy Pearce, Cara Stobart, Diana Crump, Sean Mackney, Rhys Roberts and Tony Gravett

Apologies

Shaun Sawyer and Sue Wilkinson

No.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will Communicate / action?	When?
1.	Welcome and Introductions		
	John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council welcomed all to the first meeting of Team Devon Local Outbreak Engagement Board.		

lo.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will action?	When?
	The Chief Executive and Director of Public Health outlined the role of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board and that of the Health Protection Board.		
	This was a nationally rolled out programme which had developed rapidly in terms of the requirement to produce a Local Outbreak Management Plan and the associated new structures this requires, and the Engagement Board was a significant part of the overall Strategy. The Health Protection Board was responsible for the delivery of the Local Outbreak Management Plan, which had to be in place by the 30 th June 2020.		
	There were also strong links to emergency planning and resilience functions and structures.		
	The role of the Engagement Board was to oversee the work of Health Protection Board in terms of engaging and communicating with wider public, communities and sectors in the Devon and Torbay area, both public, private and voluntary.		
	The Chief Executive highlighted that whilst this was a new approach, it was similar to that adopted in Germany with local responsibility for tackling local outbreaks.		
	There were still further details awaited in the form of a 'Containment Framework' which would outline the national and local powers and how central and local would work together in practice.		
	The Board were also asked to note that the Public Health teams and staff which supported this work were relatively small in numbers, so it was important to ensure they were well supported through this process.		
	The Director of Public Health added that the South West had an excellent track record in partnership working and therefore was well placed to deliver this work stream effectively. There were strong networks and the Council was part of a number of best practice networks. She also added that there would be joined up working across the peninsular (reflecting Local Resilience Forum arrangements) and that the membership of the Health Protection Board demonstrated the strong leadership that was in place.		

Page 2

No.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will action?	When?
	The Board was assured of the strong governance arrangements in place including the role of the Health Protection Board and this Board as well as working with MP's and a focus on prevention and early intervention with a whole range of experienced practitioners.		
	All Board then members introduced themselves and the organisations and sectors they represented and how they would feed back any key messages to their respective organisations and communications channels. Their respective positions are detailed on the website for the Board.		
	The Chair commented that the work of the Board was well supported by a number of Council Officers.		
	The Chair of the Board highlighted that the Board would operate as a hub and spoke arrangement and the importance of Board members relaying key messages and feeding back.		
2.	Notes of the Shadow Board on 3 July 2020		
	The notes of the Shadow Board were noted.		
3.	Overview of the Local Outbreak Scheme including Plan, Track and Trace, the Health Protection Board and Governance Arrangements		
	The Board received a Presentation received from the Director of Public Health, which was appended to the notes of this meeting.		
	The presentation highlighted;		
	 the number of COVID cases per week including 11 new cases in Devon and 1 in Torbay; 		

No.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will action?	When?
	 that small area data was being released (linked to neighbourhood level); the positivity rate (positive tests / all tests), which was less than 1% for the SW; the figure for Devon over last 14 days was 0.3 (which was not unusual, given increased testing and the release of lockdown). The figures were not a cause for concern; a figure of 5% would need review and action; work was ongoing to enable information and data be shared on a public website; the numbers of confirmed cases in last 14 days by district area, the Board noting that public health compared their data and undertook cross referencing to national data, which confirmed none of the cases were linked (i.e. no outbreaks); the numbers of confirmed cases by day (Devon and Torbay); and the numbers of deaths in Torbay and Devon, which showed there had been no deaths in the period between 27 June and 3 July. 		
	 In discussion, the Board asked questions and commented as follows; the difficulty of balance between risk and that of supporting the economy; the capacity of the NHS with social distancing measures and the impact on waiting lists and the need to ensure that people who were unwell felt safe to see and contact GP's; the position with visitors and how regional public health teams would communicate in the case of an infection (the Director of Public Health commented the system would be similar for that of other infectious diseases but endeavoured to check the position); that the testing regime was getting markedly quicker than was previously the case; that the 'Action Cards' were expected to be received with the new containment framework shortly; that further discussions were being held on the issue of those who were asymptomatic, the impact and risk of this and also the national debate regarding the further testing of other groups of people; and that the people of Devon had shown a good response to the required measures of lockdown and shielding which had contributed to the low numbers seen, with also lower incidents in care homes than seen elsewhere. 		

No.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will action?	When?
	Agreed that the links from the presentation be included in the minutes – as below Coronavirus Tracker https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk ONS Weekly Death Registrations https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsand marriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovi sional/previousReleases LG Inform case tracker (trends and comparisons): https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/view/lga-research/covid-19-case- tracker-area-quick-view-1?mod-area=E10000008 PHE MSOA case tracker: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=47574f7a6e454 dc6a42c5f6912ed7076 PHE weekly surveillance report: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19- surveillance-reports ONS weekly mortality data: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsand marriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovi sional/previousReleases R Number and Growth Rates: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number- in-the-uk#latest-r-number-and-growth-rate 		
4.	Setting the Scene - Role and purpose of the Team Devon Local Outbreak Engagement Board and any working practices The Board considered its role and purpose and the terms of reference, the key point being that the role of the Team Devon Local Outbreak Engagement Board was the political oversight of the local delivery of plan and response and communicating and engaging with residents and communities.		

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No.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will action?	When?
	This included avoiding misinformation, working in an open and transparent way and supporting vulnerable and high risk communities.		
5.	Partners to outline their role on the Board and their reporting mechanisms		
	All Board members had introduced themselves and the organisations and sectors they represented under item 1 (welcomes and introductions).		
6.	Prevention and Public Messaging		
	The Head of Communications outlined the extensive communication network that would be supporting the Board, including other partners, and the production of a Strategy.		
	The focus moving forward would feature the issue of personal responsibility and local oversight of the situation.		
	There would be three strands and levels of communications which would comprise of prevention messages, the promotion of a local response including building trust and confidence and then communications relating to specific incidents and potential outbreaks and the support to be provided in relation to that.		
7.	Managing an Outbreak - What Happens, National Guidance, Action Cards and Best Practice examples		
	The Board noted that further details were awaited on this matter in the form of a 'Containment Framework' which would outline the national and local powers and how central and local would work together in practice. This included the anticipated 'Action Cards'.		

No.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will action?	When?
8.	Feedback and / or Urgent Items from the Health Protection Board		
	The Director of Public Health advised that the Health Protection Board had been discussing key messages in relation to face coverings and the potential change in the law to expand their use in a number of other settings.		
	There was an opportunity to share key messages in relation to early prevention, which had been proven to stand the County in good stead and the provision of local clarity in those messages.		
	Members of the Board were in agreement with the advice to get ahead of the game in terms of prevention advice, but there was a need to consider other settings such as schools and what mitigations would work best in which settings. The discussion emphasised the need for Devon to frame its public health messages for different sectors and communities, including a consideration of those who had a disability.		
	Agreed that the LOEB be asked to consider the issue of face coverings and the messages it wanted to send and the potential to link these messages with the ending of shielding.		
9.	Key Messages to be communicated today		
	Agreed		
	 (a) the importance of promoting the establishment of the Board and its purpose in the new outbreak management plans, including the promotion of key messages moving forward; (b) the need for a clear Communication Strategy and Protocol and this be brought to the next meeting of the Board; 		

No.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will action?	When?
	 (c) the emphasis on personal responsibility and managing individual risk, with consideration for the impact of individual behaviour on others, both for residents and businesses; and (d) that more work be undertaken in relation to the wider research on face coverings and a proposal for an information / safety campaign be brought back to a future Board meeting. 		
10.	Public questions / Questions for the Board and its Members		
	There were no public questions or comments		
	The Chair invited other questions from those present who were not Members of the Engagement Board.		
	Question and comments included:		
	 progress relating to the tracing App and satisfaction levels with the current tracing facilities and mechanisms (noting that test and trace did not rely on the App); the secondment of staff to Public Health England in relation to track and trace work; the challenge relating to capacity and ensuring this was sufficient in the event of a surge or pacing of cases; 		
	 the importance of all other measures being in place alongside any guidance relating to the wearing of face coverings, for example good hygiene practices and social distancing; the role of County Councillors in supporting the communications in the event of any outbreak and the formation of a local protocol to assist in this process; and whether any work was ongoing with behavioural science and affecting behavioural change. The University highlighted their experience in this area and willingness to support. 		

No.	Decision/Action/Message	Who Will action?	When?
	Agreed		
	 (a) that more work will be undertaken on the research and evidence relating to face coverings and the effectiveness with other measures; and (b) that an item for the next agenda would be the consideration of the Local Members Communication Protocol 		
11.	Dates of future meetings		
	Agreed that the next meeting take place on 29 th July at 11.00am		

Team Devon

Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan

Communications Strategy

Building public trust and confidence in a Team Devon response to dealing with Covid-19 to support a safer and faster local recovery

July 2020

Do it for your family and loved ones, Do it for your community, **Do it for Devon.**

Introduction

Page

<u>1</u>3

- Emphasis on personal responsibility and self-compliance means it is vital everyone feels part of the local plan
- Engagement, openness and transparency essential to build trust and confidence and sense of collective ownership
- Good public information and messaging can help secure ongoing public support and compliance
- Communicating well with individuals, communities or workplaces affected by a Covid-19 situation can help ensure active support for any local action needed
- Establishing strong local leadership speaking with a clear, credible and trusted voice is key.

Key principles

We will:

- Be as open and transparent as possible
- Reach out to engage well and ensure public and community participation and collective ownership
- Ensure affected communities and businesses are well informed and supported
- Ensure specific needs of vulnerable people and diverse communities are met
- Make maximum use of existing trusted community networks wherever possible
- Talk to people in a language they understand using the channels they recognise and use
- Involve all key local players (eg. elected members, local community organisations, local influencers) in event of a local Covid-19 situation with risk of community spread

There are <u>three</u> main elements:

- 1. Amplify prevention messages plus promoting the NHS Test and Trace campaign and latest advice and guidance through local channels with tailored messages for Devon's key audiences
- 2. Build trust and confidence by demonstrating strong local leadership and establishing and promoting Team Devon LOMP amongst key stakeholders and communities and reassuring that local action plans are in place
- **3.** Rapid response ensuring a timely, appropriate and well targeted communication response is given in the event of a local Covid-19 situation

Each strategy has its own detailed action plan including the identification of key audiences, stakeholders, messages and a channels.

1. Prevention (advice and guidance)

We are:

- Uplifting national collateral and messaging using local channels
- Ensuring all the latest guidance and advice is easily available and promoted among partners including businesses and communities
- Tailoring national messages to a Devon audience where appropriate or beneficial eg. Tourism and tourists, use of face masks, etc
- Targeting bespoke messages to groups who are struggling to comply in a way that will help them engage eg. Young adults, migrant workers, etc.
 - Working to better target advice and guidance to most vulnerable and previously shielded
 - Working to identify, target and adapt messages for those most at risk of exclusion using alternative formats including BSL video, Easy Read, 19 identified community foreign languages, large print and audio.

Other likely activity includes:

- Webinars with specific sectors and providers
- Radio phone-ins by local public health specialist

Page 16

Washing my hands helps protect me.

And you.

Devon

age

1

Devon

Remember it's critical to keep washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds.

For more ways to stay safe go to gov.uk/coronavirus

Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevon

I wear this to protect you.

Please wear yours to protect me.

Wear a face covering to keep your nose and mouth covered at all times on public transport, shops and supermarkets unless you have good reason not to.

CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES

STAY ALERT

NHS

STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS

SAVE LIVES

NHS

Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevon



Regular handwashing wipes away the virus.

STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES

Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevon





Social distancing is still important for all of us.



Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevon





Please wear yours to protect me.

Wear a face covering to keep your nose and mouth covered at all times on public transport, shops and supermarkets unless you have good reason not to.

Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevon

STAY ALERT



NHS

ou have symptoms, don't leave home except get a test. Stop the spread. ok a test now at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119

o it for your) FamilyCommunityDevon

Self isolate to keep me safe.

If you're told you've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, it is critical that you self-isolate at home for 14 days to protect others.

Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevon

Self isolate to keep me safe.

If you're told you've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, it is critical that you self-isolate at home for 14 days to protect others.

Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevon

I lost taste and smell. I got tested. Immediately.

Devon

NHS

If you have symptoms, don't leave home except to get a test. Stop the spread.

Book a test now at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119

Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevo

Do it for your > FamilyCommunityDevon



Washing my hands helps protect me. And you.

Regular handwashing wipes away the virus.



respect | protect | enjoy

Keeping apart keeps us safe

Social distancing is still important for all of us.

ENJOY Summer SAFELY

respect | protect | enjoy



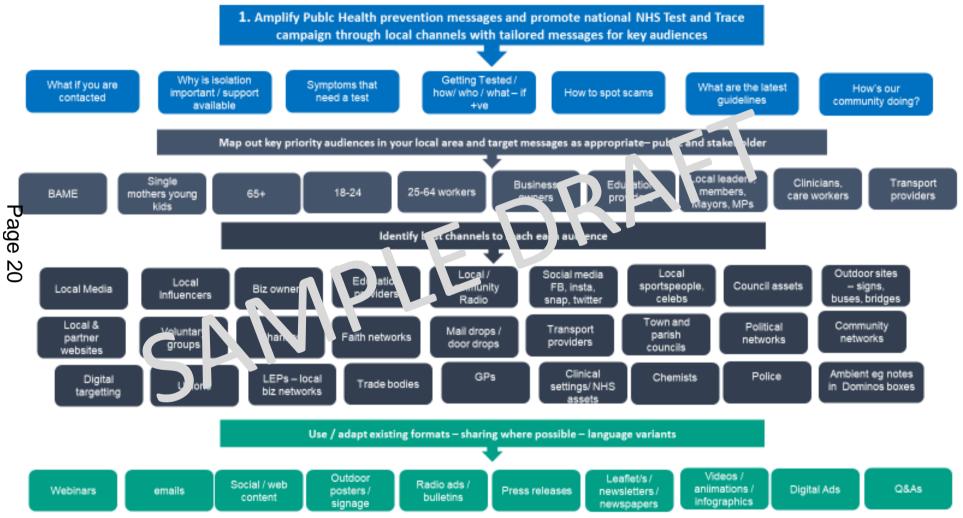
Please take your rubbish home

Please help keep our environment clean and safe.



Agenda Item 5



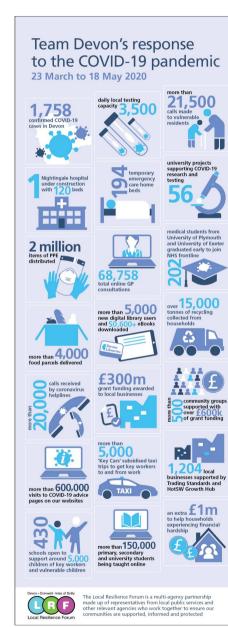


2. Build trust and confidence

Following a major media launch of local outbreak management arrangements and a newspaper door drop to 300,000 households, we are:

- Regularly briefing MPs and other key stakeholders (including media) •
- Undertaking internal communication across partnership including via communities •
- Making LOEB and other aspects of the outbreak management process as
- transparent and accessible as possible
- Page Producing a public website with full information on local outbreak plans and with
- 21 live data feeds
 - Publishing and promoting specific local sector plans and preparation where appropriate eg. Tourism and leisure industry, return of university students, etc.
 - Seeking opportunities to promote the activity of the HPB and LOEB through the media eg. media releases, interviews, etc.

Aim is to establish Devon LOMP spokespeople as credible, recognised and trusted sources and that we speak as one with a strong and clear voice

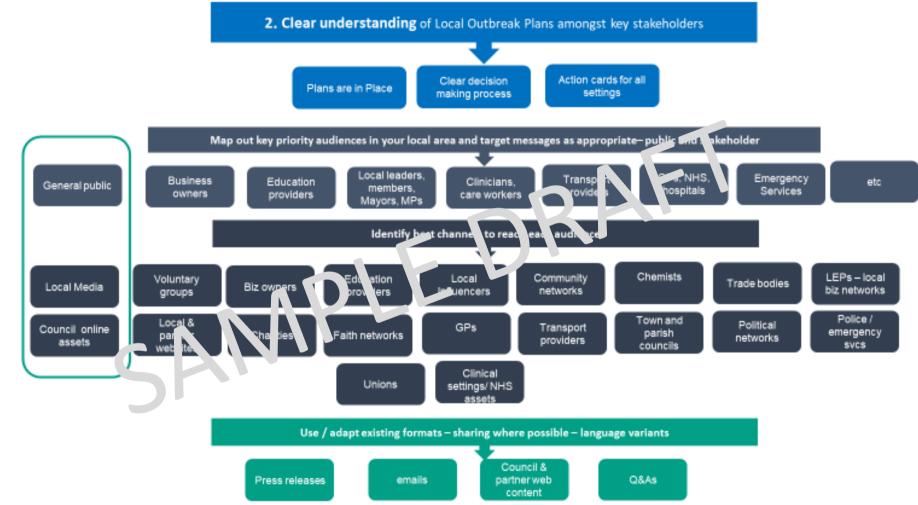












3. Rapid Response (dealing with local Covid-19 situation)

We are currently working to:

- Identify and plan for higher risk scenarios and settings
- Develop a communications checklist and toolkit to use in the event of local outbreak (linked to developing Public Health Standard Operating Procedures)
- Develop key messages and marketing collateral for range of scenarios and settings
 Identify and agree use of existing trusted communication networks and channels
- Identify and agree use of existing trusted communication networks and channels
 (eg. GP SMS system)
 - Identify likely high risk and currently excluded groups and develop action plans and channels to target in event of outbreak eg. plan for rapid deployment of range of alternative formats including translation services, easy read, etc. and ensure as much of this as possible is available in advance
 - Develop and rehearse use of new channels such as hyper-local geo targeted social media

Plans will be subject to testing and review through communications active participation in scenario-based training and links to national best practice work. Senior communications staff will be represented at all levels of incident response.

What you need to do if you fall ill with **COVID-19 symptoms whilst visiting**

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms during your visit, do not ignore or try to hide your symptoms. It is important you act quickly to help yourself and protect those around you. It is your responsibility to stay safe and keep others safe.

COVID-19 symptoms are:

A new, continuous cough

- High temperature
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If you feel unwell and experience any COVID-19 symptoms you must:

- Stay indoors and self-isolate
- Arrange a test using your holiday address

Do not ignore your symptoms: self-isolating and getting tested quickly is the best way that you can stay safe and protect others.

You MUST notify your accommodation provider.

If you need medical advice while you wait for your test results please contact your regular (home) GP or call 111.

If you are staying or travelling with others, they must also self-isolate and take appropriate action based on your test result.

How do I book a test?

do not use public transport.

- Online: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
- Call: 119

Please use the address of your holiday destination: INSERT HERE

What should I do if my test is positive?

If you feel well enough to travel and do not need to use public transport, you should return home as quickly and directly as you can

If you feel so unwell that you cannot travel or cannot avoid public transport, you should continue to isolate and call 111 for further advice

It is important that you do not use public transport. You must also tell your accommodation provider that you have tested positive.

If you are unwell and cannot return home. you will be expected to pay all costs to your accommodation provider.

My test was negative, can I stay?

Stay and enjoy your visit as planned but if you need medical assistance please call your own regular GP or 111.

Who to contact if you're unwell?

- If you are ill and need medical advice, call 111 or your own GP
- In the event of a medical emergency, call 999

Test results are issued by text or email so you do not need to wait for your results if you are due to return home before your result may arrive. Produced in partnership with the COVID-19 Health Protection Boards of Devon & Torbay, Cornwall & Isles of You must return home the most direct way and Scilly, Dorset, Somerset and Plymouth

Further advice on COVID-19: NHS: nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19 UK Government: gov.uk/coronavirus

Tourist Charter



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1. Stay at home

and don't travel if already ill don't try and hide symptoms.

2. Stay at home

and don't travel if Test and Trace has contacted you.

3. Think ahead

Book accommodation, read the terms & conditions, heed advice.

4. Pack

plenty of hand sanitiser, a face covering, your own GP details and any medications you need.

5. Keep your distance

socially and in public.

#WelcomeBack #KnowBeforeYouGo



genda

পর্যটন বিধিমালা



N 8

BENGALI

1.বাডিতে থাকন

যদি ইতিমধ্যেই অসস্থ হয়ে থাকেন তবে ভ্রমণ করবেন না - উপসর্গগুলো লুকানোর চেষ্টা করবেন না।

2.বাডিতে থাকুন

ভ্রমণ করবেন না, যদি টেস্ট অ্যান্ড ট্রেস (Test and Trace) আপনার সাথে যোগাযোগ করে।

🖁.আগে থেকেই চিন্তা কবে বাথন

থাকার ব্যবস্থার জন্য বুক করুন, শর্ভাবলী

পড়ন, পরামর্শের ব্যাপারে যদ্পবান হউন।

5.আগলার দূরত্ব বজায় রাথুল

#WelcomeBack #KnowBeforeYouGo

4 প্যাক করুন

প্রচুর হাত স্যানিটাইজার, মুখের আচ্ছাদন, অপিনার নিজের জিপি'র বিস্বারিত বিবরণ এবং আপনার প্রয়োজনীয় যে কোনো ওষুধ।

সামাজিকভাবে এবং জনসমাগমে।



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BULGARIAN

социална и публична.

#WelcomeBack #KnowBeforeYouGo

данни и лекарства, от които се нуждаете.

Спазвайте дистанция

Туристическа харта

и не пътувайте, ако вече сте болни.Не

се опитвайте да скриете симптомите.

и не пътувайте, ако от Тестуване и

Проследяване са се свързали с вас.

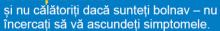
имслете в перспектива

1. Останете вкъщи

2. Останете вкъщи

#WelcomeBack #KnowBeforeYouGo

Reguli pentru turiș 1. Stati acasă



2. Stati acasă



ROMANIAN

si nu călătoriti dacă ati fost contactat de

"Test and Trace" (testare si urmărire). **3. Planificati din timp**



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Rezervati cazarea, cititi teremenii si conditiile, fiti atenti la informatii.

4. Împachetati

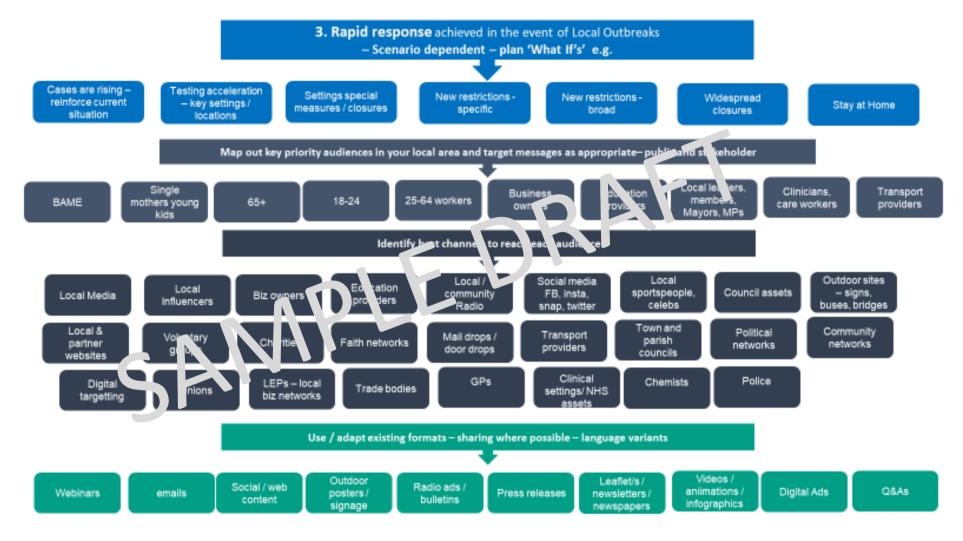
suficient gel igienizant, mască pentru fată, detaliile medicului de familie si orice medicamente de care aveti

nevoie.



socială și în public.

5. Păstrați distanța



Strategy and messages will remain under constant review and development



COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan Devon County Council Members' Protocol

Introduction

Alongside all upper tier authorities, Devon County Council has published its COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan.

The Plan is a blueprint for managing any coronavirus outbreaks in Devon to protect residents, communities and businesses and support the most vulnerable. It sets out measures to prevent any further outbreaks in Devon as well as action to respond to outbreaks and contain the spread of coronavirus.

Devon County Council has also been designated one of England's 11 Beacon Councils by Government to lead the implementation of the new Local Outbreak Management Plans and to share good practice.

Devon and Torbay Health COVID-19 Health Protection Board

The Board is responsible for the management of the Local Outbreak Management Plan and for coordinating resources and partner agencies to provide a swift response to managing an outbreak of the virus, including local testing and tracing arrangements.

It is chaired by Devon's Director of Public Health, Dr Virginia Pearson, with the Director of Public Health for Torbay, Dr Caroline Dimond, and Devon's Deputy Director of Public Health, Steve Brown, as vice-chairs.

Team Devon – Local Outbreak Engagement Board

Team Devon will monitor how the Plan is delivered within the community and will liaise directly with Government ministers. Team Devon is also responsible for communicating and engaging with residents, businesses and communities and is chaired by Council Leader John Hart.

As with the Health Protection Board, Membership includes several partner agencies.

What is classed as an outbreak?

An outbreak is generally defined as two or more cases connected in time to a specific place such as a care home, school, factory or workplace – not a household.

What happens if there is an outbreak in Devon?

The Devon COVID-19 Tactical Management Group (TMG) and key appropriate service lead e.g. Adult Social Care if the case is in a care home and education if it is in a school, are notified by Public Health England of all confirmed cases in Devon.

If an outbreak is identified the actions will be agreed between the Local Health Protection Team (PHE) and Devon TMG. The precise action taken will depend upon the complexity of the outbreak. It is likely that if an outbreak is detected, an Outbreak Control Team is set up to identify and agree early intervention measures to stop the spread before it escalates further into the community.

The Plan sets out a toolkit of infection control measures including advising on hygiene practices, implementing public health measures, providing focused testing right through to localised lockdown (in conjunction with Public Health England). The action that is taken will depend on the severity of the outbreak and the most appropriate measures.

Communication cascade

In the event of a confirmed outbreak in Devon, Dr Virginia Pearson will inform Councillor John Hart, Phil Norrey, Councillor Roger Croad, the relevant Chief Officer and the local Members(s).

Devon's Communications Task Group chaired by Devon's Head of Communications and Media, Tony Parker, will also be informed and actions in the Communications Strategy (see attached) will be implemented immediately.

Communication principles

- The Leader of the County Council has ultimate responsibility for overseeing and approving all communications and engagement.
- All communications and public engagement will be routed through the COVID-19 Communications Task Group.
- Communications and public engagement will be led by the science and informed by accurate data.
- Communications and public engagement will be timely to ensure affected communities, workplaces, stakeholders and the wider public are provided with trusted, authoritative information.
- The needs of vulnerable residents and minority groups will be considered and reflected in bespoke communications and engagement where necessary.
- All communications and public engagement will have regard to the Government's Code of recommended Practice on local Authority Publicity.

Local Members' Role

Local Members have a fundamental role to play in helping to stop the spread of infection, in keeping communities informed and reassured, and in communicating timely information and advice which will be led by the science and data.

Trust and confidence in the County Council to manage any outbreaks alongside our partner agencies is crucial.

Misinformation and rumour can spread quickly so it is vital that authoritative, timely, consistent and open and honest information is shared with residents as widely as possible.

The local knowledge and connections that Members have will be crucial in the event of any local outbreaks.

However, it is clear from the Government guidance that the key messages of the Team Devon Local Outbreak Engagement Board should emulate from the Leader of the Council. We would ask that Members do not issue press releases, statements or letters for publication relating to an outbreak without speaking to the Leader of the Council and notification to the Communications Task Group.

Likewise, the Council will be working hard on promoting accurate information relating to prevention and protection messages, therefore it is very important that local Members work with the Communications Task Group to ensure an accurate response.

One of the key threads of the Team Devon Local Outbreak Engagement Board is to avoid misinformation therefore it is crucial that any local Member communication is accurate and led by both scientific evidence and data.

Local Members have two key roles in this process, the first to use local networks to disseminate any key messages and the second to report back any local intelligence to the Public Health Team relating to an outbreak or rising numbers of cases.

Members will be expected to take forward any prevention communications and share them widely within their networks and communities. Local Members will also be asked to ensure that the communications have been provided in a format that is widely accessible for any hard to reach groups or minority communities within their ward.

In the event of an outbreak, local Members will be made aware of the position and may be asked to join the Leader in any press statements or communications, as outlined below, but much will depend on the nature and type of outbreaks and in which community, sector and / or business setting.

If an infection affects more than one ward, then those local Members will be asked to work together, with the Communications Task Group to ensure coherent and accurate information across those areas.

There will be a steady flow of information in relation to prevention and any safety campaigns, but the frequency of updates in relation to an outbreak will very much be incidence specific.

Media releases/spokespeople

As per the agreed Council Communications protocol, quotes from local Members will be included in media releases and on the Newscentre as appropriate, alongside quotes from Cllr Hart, Dr Pearson and partner agencies as necessary.

Cllr Hart and Dr Pearson, alongside Phil Norrey, will be the main spokespeople in response to any outbreaks but there may be occasion where the local Member is asked for an interview. Such requests should only be undertaken with the agreement of the Communications Task Group.

Social media

The power of social media to reach communities will be of utmost importance during an outbreak. However, the power of social media to also rapidly spread rumours and misinformation should not be overlooked.

Communication from the Council's social media accounts will be led and facilitated by the Communications Task group to ensure consistent and accurate messages. Members are encouraged to share these corporate messages through their social media accounts.

Please see the <u>Social Media Guide</u> for Members.

Questions

If Members have any questions about the Protocol or Communications Strategy please contact <u>Tony Parker</u>, Head of Communications and Media, or <u>Paula Miles</u>, Head of Internal and Change Communications or <u>Karen Strahan</u>, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager.