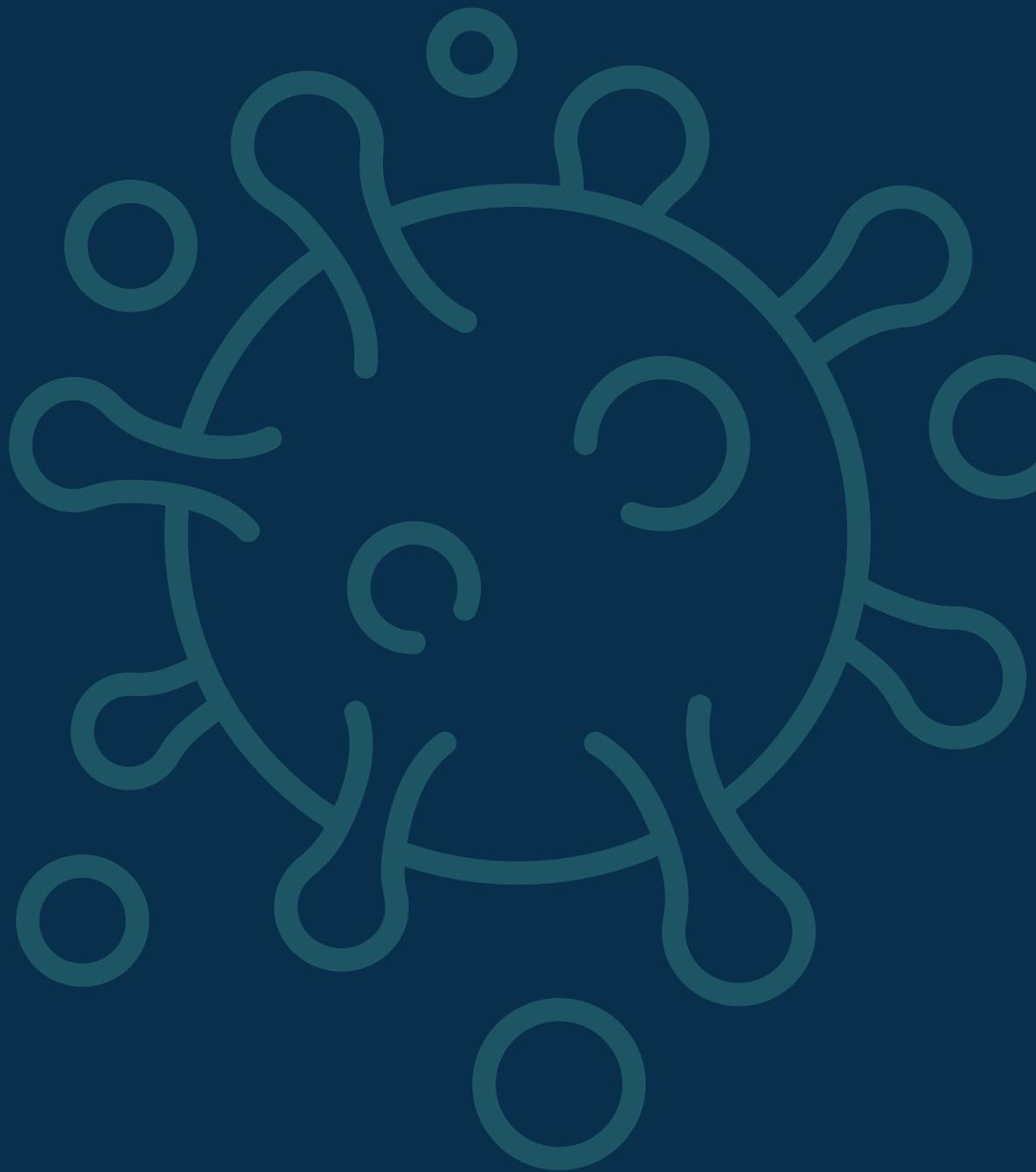


# Hampshire County Council's COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan summary



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In line with the next phase of the UK's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hampshire County Council is required to produce and implement a Local Outbreak Plan. The plan details how the local authority and its partners will respond to further outbreaks of infection and this summary covers the key aspects.

## Our aim

We want life to return to normal for our residents as soon as possible. But we need to achieve this in a way that is safe, protects our health and care services and enables the local economy to restart and thrive. We aim to:

- reduce the transmission of COVID-19, protect those who are most vulnerable and prevent increased demand on our healthcare services;
- provide consistent advice to places and communities to prevent the spread of coronavirus;
- oversee the test and trace programme in Hampshire and coordinate testing across the county;
- work together with partners, in a coordinated way, to support communities across the county to reduce spread of infection.

## What is in the plan?

The main objective in managing an outbreak is to protect the public's health. In the context of COVID-19 this requires taking action to ensure those infected self-isolate, contacts are traced and measures are implemented to stop further spread or recurrence of the virus. Following government guidance, the plan has a number of key components. These are:

- **Care homes and schools**

Measures have already been put in place in care homes and schools to prevent the risk of infection, but we need to be ready for any potential outbreaks. We will continue to monitor what is happening locally, so that we can quickly identify actions needed to manage an outbreak and protect lives.

- **High risk places, locations, communities and healthcare settings**

Working with partners including the NHS and district councils we have also identified other high-risk locations and communities. These include a wide range of places such as sheltered housing, airports, transport hubs, prisons, hospitals, tourist venues and higher risk workplaces. We explain how we will tackle any outbreaks within these locations and who else will be required to help us tackle any outbreaks within these locations and who else will be required to help us.

- **Local testing capacity**

We aim to ensure testing can be accessed easily by all our residents. Within Hampshire testing for residents with COVID-19 symptoms is provided via the **NHS website**, or by telephoning 119 to arrange to be tested at a regional testing site, mobile testing unit, or via a home testing kit. We describe how local testing will be used to ensure a swift response is provided to any suspected cases or outbreaks. For those places which have been identified as higher risk we have also summarised how they can access testing for their staff and residents.

- **Contact tracing in complex settings**

Contact tracing is a fundamental part of the outbreak control plan. When a person tests positive for COVID-19, they are contacted to gather details of places they have visited and people with whom they have been in contact. Those who are identified as a 'close contact' are then contacted and given advice on what they should do e.g. self-isolate. Within the plan contact tracing will usually be carried out by NHS Test and Trace. However, for more complex local situations, Public Health England, Local Authority Public Health teams and District Environmental Health teams will become involved.

- **Vulnerable people**

It is anticipated that most people who need to will be able to self-isolate for the maximum two-week period without any support. However, we know that some residents will need extra help to access test and trace and to self-isolate. Hampshire County Council working with district councils will continue to support vulnerable residents by identifying relevant community help groups and ensuring services meet the needs of our diverse communities.

## **Using data to help our response**

To ensure we can act quickly and effectively, we will need to have an 'early warning' system in place to identify potential outbreaks. This relies on having good local intelligence and data and we are working with the national Joint Biosecurity Centre to ensure we have effective health surveillance and data collection to support this. How we will manage and comply with data protection, data sharing and data security requirements, whilst dealing with this emergency is also covered in the plan.

## **Who is responsible for delivering the plan?**

### **The Hampshire Covid-19 Health Protection Board**

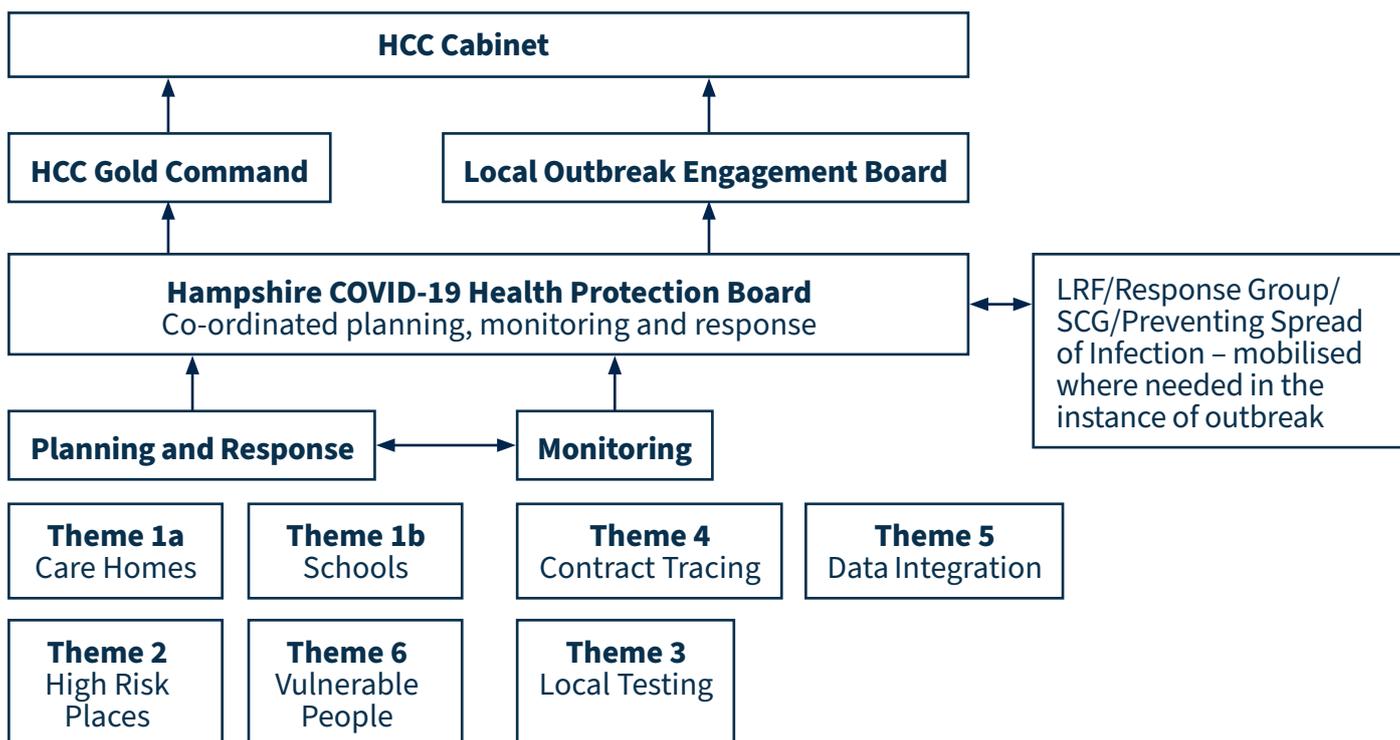
Under the leadership of Director of Public Health, the Hampshire Covid-19 Health Protection Board will be responsible for the delivery of the plan. Representatives from Hampshire County Council, District Councils and the NHS will be also be members of this board. To date this partnership has already been instrumental in managing the local response to the pandemic. By continuing to work together through this Board, we will ensure the needs of Hampshire's residents are met and that the incidence of cases is lowered and lives saved.

### **Role of your Hampshire County Councillors**

We have also established the Hampshire Local Outbreak Engagement Board to ensure that your elected representatives are able to scrutinise the local delivery of the test and trace service. They will also lead communication and engagement with the public.

The diagram below illustrates who is responsible for delivering the plan and how they link to other organisations such as Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum, who are responsible for overall emergency planning.

## Role of your Hampshire County Councillors for overall emergency planning



### Local authority and public health protection powers

To date Hampshire's residents have acted responsibly to protect their own and other people's health and we envisage that this will continue with everyone playing their part. However, occasionally voluntary measures are insufficient and legal powers are needed to deal with infections or contamination that present a significant risk to human health.

Powers available to local authorities (both county and district) to protect the public's health are detailed within the plan. Any exercise of these powers will usually be in consultation with other organisations, such as Public Health England's Health Protection team, the NHS or the emergency services.

### And finally...

We believe the steps described in the plan are critical to reducing the spread of any infection and ultimately saving lives. This will only be achieved through the coordinated efforts of a range of organisations across local and national government, the NHS, Public Health England, businesses and employers, voluntary organisations and other community partners, and most importantly with the support of Hampshire residents.

**Working together will help Hampshire return to a healthy normal as quickly as possible.**