

# Surrey Local Outbreak Control Plan Questions and Answers



## What is the Local Outbreak Control Plan?

The Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP) provides a blueprint for managing COVID-19 outbreaks to protect residents and support the most vulnerable. It sets out measures to try and prevent any further local outbreaks of COVID-19 as well as action to respond rapidly to any outbreaks, limiting further transmission.

The plan has been developed to support the national NHS Test and Trace programme. It aims to ensure that all partners involved in outbreak management have the necessary capacity and capability to provide a fully co-ordinated approach to contain and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19 and will be updated as new national guidance or legislation is produced or learning from real events is shared.

While the plan deals with all local COVID-19 outbreaks, it also identifies and prioritises preventative and early intervention measures for key settings such as care homes and schools and high-risk locations and communities to make sure they are supported.

## Do other areas have local outbreak control plans?

Yes, the government has instructed all upper tier local authorities (County Councils and Unitary authorities) working partners, to produce a Local Outbreak Control Plan by the end of June 2020. Local authorities and partners have a significant role to play in the identification and management of COVID-19 outbreaks and Local Outbreak Control Plans ensure that any local outbreak is responded to swiftly, protecting communities and helping prevent the spread of the virus.

## Why do councils need separate plans?

Each council knows its own area and communities best, and is experienced in dealing with outbreaks of infectious diseases – not just coronavirus. Public Health have previously worked with partners to deal with measles, meningitis and E.Coli outbreaks.

All of the local authorities will follow a similar plan, with three boards or groups, designed to manage the process smoothly. There is:

- A COVID-19 Health Protection Operational Group
- A Local Outbreak Engagement Board
- A Local Resilience Forum – which includes the Multi-Agency Information Group (MIG)

## What is the role of the COVID-19 Health Protection Operational Group (HPOG)?

The Surrey COVID-19 Health Protection Operational Group (HPOG) is responsible for strategic oversight of health protection regarding COVID-19 in Surrey, including prevention, surveillance, planning and response, to ensure they meet the needs of the population.

The Operational Group will support the local delivery of the primary objectives of the government strategy to reduce the spread of infection and save lives. In doing so we will help to return life to as normal as possible, for as many people as possible, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and releases our economy.

The HPOG is chaired by Ruth Hutchinson, Interim Director of Public Health, Surrey County Council.

## What is the role of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF)?

The Surrey Local Resilience Forum (LRF) will support local health protection arrangements working with HPOG and LOEB directly through the Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG), Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG), and the following Cells:

- Multi-agency Information Cell (MIG)
- Tactical Intelligence and Analytics Cell (TIAC)
- Testing Cell

- Resident Welfare and Volunteer Cell

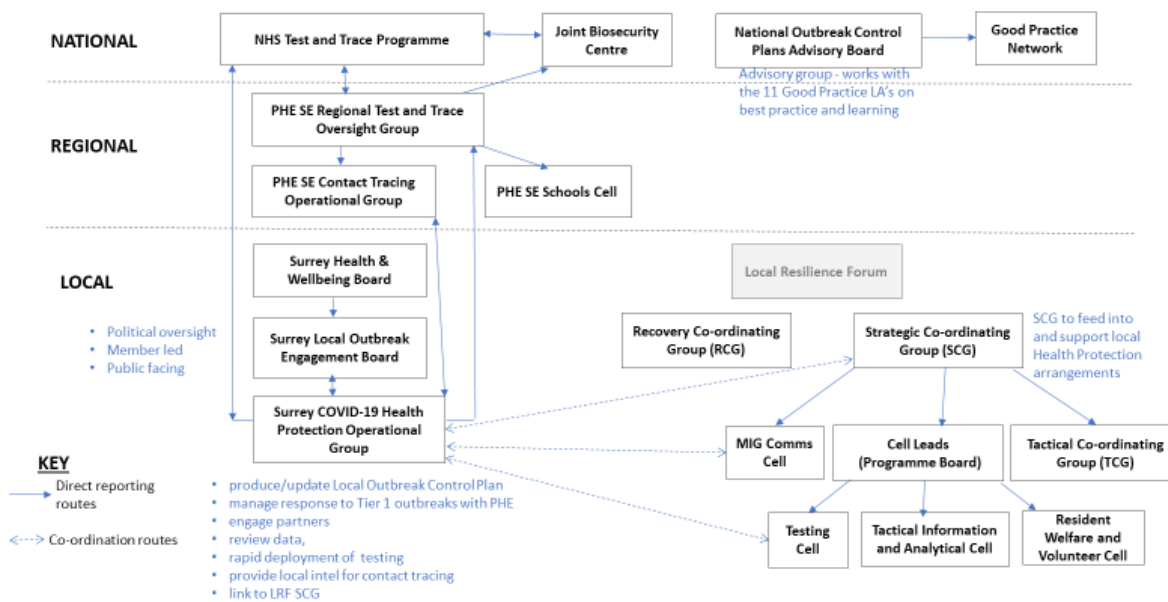
The LRF structure will be expected to manage the deployment of broader resources and local testing capacity to rapidly test people in the event of a local outbreak.

### What is the role of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB)?

The Surrey Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) is a member-led oversight board, chaired by Tim Oliver, the Leader of Surrey County Council. The LOEB is a subgroup of the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board. The primary roles of the LOEB are to have political oversight relating to outbreak response, provide direction and leadership for community engagement, and be the public face of the local response in the event of an outbreak.

### How do the boards work together?

COVID-19 Test and Trace – Governance Overview



### Is anyone else involved?

Partnership working is crucial to help prevent the spread of the virus. Containing local outbreaks successfully will need to be a co-ordinated effort with specialists from Public Health England, the NHS, social care, district and borough councils, education, Police, private sector, employers and the community and voluntary sectors, depending on the situation.

### How is an outbreak defined?

An outbreak is generally defined as two or more cases connected in time to a specific place (not a household) for example, in a care home, school or factory. It can also be a greater number of infections than expected for a particular place and time.

### What are the preventative measures to help reduce the spread of coronavirus?

We all have a role to play in preventing the spread of coronavirus. Adherence to the national Government guidelines including staying at home if you develop symptoms of coronavirus, regular hand washing for at least 20 seconds, good respiratory hygiene and being strict about maintaining social distancing will all help to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Government guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

In addition, we are working with specific sectors that are known to be at higher risk of an outbreak. National 'Action Cards' are being developed for specific setting types such as workplaces, schools and care homes. These cards will set

out how and who should be contacted if there is a suspected COVID-19 outbreak within the setting and they will also set out clear guidance on preventative measures bespoke to particular setting.

### How does the LOCP help contain outbreaks of coronavirus?

Real-time data and intelligence is the key to a rapid and effective response. Regular testing data pinpoints any potential outbreaks and the continuous data with local intelligence (from doctors, testing, hospitals etc) helps local authorities to monitor the number of cases within their areas. As part of the Local Outbreak Control Plan an integrated data and surveillance system has been established. Our experience of other infectious diseases, and this pandemic has also helped us build a picture of what is happening in real time. When data and local intelligence is used together it will ensure we can develop effective responses to limit potential outbreaks.

In the event an outbreak is detected, we will take early intervention measures to stop the spread before it escalates further into the community. The plan sets out a 'toolkit' of infection control measures from advising on hygiene practices, to isolation of people and premises, right through to localised lockdown (in conjunction with Public Health England) depending on the severity and scale of the outbreak.

In addition, national 'Action Cards' will be developed for individual settings such as workplaces. These cards set out how and who should be contacted if there is suspected COVID-19 outbreak within the setting. They also set out clear guidance on preventative measures bespoke to particular settings.

### What happens if there is an outbreak in the community?

The precise action that will be taken depends on upon the complexity of the outbreak. As soon as an outbreak is detected, Public Health England notifies the local authority and where many partners need to work together, an Outbreak Control Team is formed to identify, and agree on early intervention measures to be taken 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.

### How will you know when to start a lockdown in a setting/area/business?

The Local Outbreak plan will be triggered where there are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in any setting or community type. In the event of an outbreak, PHE South East Surrey and Sussex Health Protection Team are responsible for co-ordinating outbreak management and will work closely with the Public Health team at Surrey County Council, the 11 Surrey Environmental Health Teams, Local NHS Trusts, and the two Integrated Care Systems to facilitate a timely and proportionate outbreak response.

### What happens if I am ill or someone staying with me is ill?

If you suspect that you or someone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, you must stay at home and self-isolate. The symptomatic person should be tested. Call 119 for details on how to book and where to go for a test. If the results are positive, then the person should self-isolate for 7 days. Everyone in the household should also self-isolate for 14 days as they may be incubating the infection and develop symptoms later on. If this is someone staying with you, this may be at your home, or it may need to be back at their own home, close to their own medical support. More information is available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

### What happens if I am ill while visiting the area?

If you feel unwell please contact 111. If you have any symptoms of coronavirus you must follow Government guidance and stay at home, get tested and follow further advice.

People can access a test by going to the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>) or by calling 119. People will either be able to book an appointment at a drive-through or walk through test site or ask for a home test kit. More information is available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

## Where are the testing facilities?

Drive through testing facilities are available across Surrey, and mobile test sites are at a range of locations. If needed, you can request a home testing kit. If you call 119, or visit the NHS Test and Trace web pages you will be given details of the nearest test facility and a test can be booked for you.

## How will vulnerable groups be protected and what additional support will be given to these groups?

We are working with specific at high risk and vulnerable groups to make sure they have the support and information required to stay safe. These include Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, older people and people with underlying health conditions. The COVID-19 Health Protection Operational Group (HPOG) will ensure that the health needs of these communities are addressed.

We will continue to provide resources required to support vulnerable people who are self-isolating and will make sure that those resources are also available to those instructed to self-isolate either due to symptoms or contact tracing. We are already working with the voluntary sector and if there is a surge of requirements, further capacity to effectively respond to outbreaks will be requested through the Local Resilience Forum.

## How are higher risk settings protected?

We are working with specific sectors (care, health, education etc) as part of the Local Outbreak Control Plan to make sure that those at higher risk of an outbreak have the resources to implement preventive measures in the first place and also know what to do if there is a suspected outbreak. As part of the national public health programme, 'Action Cards' are being developed for individual settings such as workplaces. These cards set out how and who should be contacted if there is a suspected COVID-19 outbreak within the setting. They also set out clear guidance on preventative measures bespoke to the setting.

## How does this work link with NHS Test and Trace?

When someone tests positive for Coronavirus then the NHS Test and Trace Service is notified. There are three tiers of contact tracing:

**Tier 3:** National contact tracers who will provide advice to contacts .

**Tier 2:** National dedicated health professional contact tracing staff will interview cases to determine who they have been in close contact during a specific time period. **Tier 1:** PHE Health Protection Teams will investigate cases escalated from Tier 2, undertake contact tracing and manage complex outbreaks that occur within settings such as a school, care home, or workplaces etc and will work with local partners.

Local authorities will be involved in Tier 1 events, as the knowledge and resource of local partners will be key to responding quickly in order to minimise spread.

## How is this funded?

National government funding of £300m is being provided to local authorities in England. On June 10th it was announced that the funding is based on the 2020/21 Public Health Grant allocation, and for Surrey County Council it will be £3,477,690.

## How many people have COVID-19 in Surrey?

Test and Trace statistics for Surrey are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-28-may-to-10-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports>

## Surrey has been referred to as a 'Beacon' Council, what does this mean?

Surrey County Council is one of 11 local authorities selected by the Government to help lead and share good practice across the region in respect to localised planning for outbreak control. More information is available here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-additional-funding-for-local-authorities-to-support-new-test-and-trace-service?utm\\_source=842abc64-75c4-4e12-9600-644777e7fcae&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-additional-funding-for-local-authorities-to-support-new-test-and-trace-service?utm_source=842abc64-75c4-4e12-9600-644777e7fcae&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

## How are you going to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan?

The aim is to keep outbreaks under control and prevent spread. Regular surveillance of local data will provide the insight needed to assess the effectiveness of the plan. The plan itself is iterative and will evolve as new research and policy is produced, ensuring that it continues to protect and support our communities.

## Do people still need to follow government guidance?

Yes, absolutely. Government guidance and social distancing will still need to be followed. We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. For details on current guidance please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

## Further information:

Surrey County Council Press Release: <https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2020/07/01/surrey-publish-plan-of-action-to-tackle-spread-of-covid-19-locally/>