

Keep Kingston Safe: Living with COVID-19

V1.1

May 2022

(Changes since V1 highlighted in yellow)

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Foreword from the Leader and Chief Executive

The global pandemic is not yet over. The Government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) is clear there is considerable uncertainty about the path that the pandemic will now take in the UK. In Kingston, in March 2022, COVID-19 cases rose rapidly, to a level of over 900/100,000/week. However, the Government has now assessed that it is time to transition to focus its COVID-19 response towards guidance, while targeting protection on individuals who are most at risk from the virus. On February 21st 2022, the government set out the new national approach to the pandemic in the document called 'COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19'¹. Living with and managing the virus will mean maintaining the population's wall of protection with vaccination and communicating safer behaviours that the public can follow to manage risk. The Government will move away from deploying regulations and requirements in England and replace specific interventions for COVID-19 with public health measures and guidance.

Seasonality, waning immunity or a more transmissible or vaccine-escaping variant could result in a significant resurgence of COVID-19. Kingston Council will work with partners to review the COVID-19 data regularly. As set out in this plan, the council will also support the national COVID-19 vaccination programme, promote the key prevention messages to the public and partners, the NHS and UKHSA colleagues and work in partnership with UKHSA, in the event of any particular outbreaks or other situations.

The people of Kingston and staff and partner organisations have worked together, tirelessly, hand in hand to Keep Kingston Safe since early 2020. In this new plan, we will be asking residents to play the most important role in keeping everyone safe - by following national guidance in their personal lives to protect themselves and others. Care locations, schools and other locations detailed in this plan still have location specific guidance - and we encourage all such settings to follow the guidance closely. As testing is reduced to those at high risk of infection and those working in high risk settings only we have more limited data and also fewer interventions available to respond to specific outbreaks situations. We will provide data where we can on levels of infection in the borough and measures that residents can take to keep themselves and others safe. Thus, how our residents act will determine the case levels going forward. Vaccination is a key component in staying safe and we will be working with partners and residents to ensure that no-one is left behind with the vaccination offer.

Leader of the Council

Chief Executive

Director of Public Health

¹ Living with COVID-19 Response - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

Introduction and new Guidance

In February 2022, the national government published the 'Living with COVID-19'² document which sets out the national approach on the COVID-19 response going forward. Thus, this plan reflects this new 'phase' of the response and how this will be implemented in Kingston.

In the Living with COVID-19 plan, Government will now structure its ongoing response around four principles:

- A. **Living with COVID-19:** removing domestic restrictions while encouraging safer behaviours through public health advice, in common with longstanding ways of managing most other respiratory illnesses;
- B. **Protecting people most vulnerable to COVID-19:** vaccination guided by Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice, and deploying targeted testing;
- C. **Maintaining resilience:** ongoing surveillance, contingency planning and the ability to reintroduce key capabilities such as mass vaccination and testing in an emergency; and
- D. **Securing innovations and opportunities** from the COVID-19 response, including investment in life sciences.

Living with COVID-19 - What has changed in the guidance?

21 February 2022 the Government has:

- Removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

From 24 February 2022 the Government:

- **Removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test.** Adults and children who test positive continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- **No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days**, and removed the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- **Ended self-isolation support payments**, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.
- **Ended routine contact tracing.** Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.
- **Ended the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.**
- Revoked The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations.

From 24 March 2022, the Government:

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

- **Removed the COVID-19 provisions** within the Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations.

From 1 April 2022, the Government:

- Removed the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and **no longer recommends that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass**.
- Updated guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This aligns with the changes to testing.
- **No longer provides free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England**.
- Consolidated guidance to the public and businesses, in line with public health advice.
- **Removed the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19** in their risk assessments.
- Replaced the existing set of 'Working Safely' guidance with new public health [workplace guidance](#).

What will be the main changes in our local response?

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR):

- Stand down Council Gold (from 28th March 2022) and Silver (from 22nd February 2022 - becoming COVID-19 Recovery Group)
- Stand down Partnership Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) (from 3rd March 2022 - issues to be picked up by Borough Resilience Forum (BRF) going forward)
- Maintain the Health Protection Forum (HPF) - with a broadened mandate covering additional Health protection issues
- Reduce the frequency of daily Adult Social Care Covid SITREP calls to once weekly and regular email update about care provider market capacity to ASC and PH leadership

Data:

- Minimise Insight & data team focus to available data for a weekly report and vaccination data support
- Be ready to stand up additional data support if needed:
- Stand down Daily Case Data Meetings ('DCDMs') from first week of March 2022
- Have one weekly summary 'DCDM' with existing partners invited to attend (Insight & data, Public Health, Adult Social Care, Children's Social care, Schools, Early Years, Regulatory Services, CCG, Hospital) - repurposed to a 'monitoring' format³
- Support Vaccination Community Champions data

³ Produce weekly report for internal (and CCG) group with available data (likely minimum: hospital case trends, Kingston, London, England, Waste Water: Hogsmill, Mogden, London, England, any test data available, geography of case rates, ONS Survey, capacity Tracker, vaccination, schools data)

- Support Vaccination Community Champions Behavioural Insights
- Support 'Staying Healthy' data (Metrics for Health and Care Plan, obesity etc)
- Produce weekly SLT briefing, BRF, HPF and other data briefings as required, weekly Chief Executive and Leader briefings)

Local Public Health Health Protection Function and rota:

- Continue to offer advice to schools if schools contact RBK Public Health, review available schools data
- Continue advice to businesses if requested (businesses to ask LCRC/ HPT in first instance, if that is agreed) - no proactive Public Health outreach re outbreaks
- LCRC/ HPT to follow up all care homes (older and children's, sheltered housing etc) outbreaks, provide local Public Health support to LCRC if requested. Daily monitoring of Capacity Tracker (Adult Social Care homes data) by Public Health to stop (weekly report will be reviewed) - no proactive Public Health contacting LCRC/ ASC/ other
- Hostels etc - LCRC/HPT to provide advice, RBK Public Health to support if requested - no proactive data analysis to find such outbreaks
- Respond to queries via inbox/ emails on COVID-19 related issues
- RBK PH COVID-19 Inbox to be maintained
- Stand down Daily Health Protection Coordinator rota (with request to be ready to stand up again, if needed)

Tracing:

- Local Contact Tracing Team stood down, Tracing has ended (24th Feb 2022)
- Tracers to support Vaccination Champions as requested for April and May 2022

Testing:

- From April 2022, the LA role in distributing tests ended.
- Free symptomatic testing will continue to be provided centrally for:
 - a) Patients in hospital**, for whom a test is required for clinical management or to support treatment pathways.
 - b) People who are eligible for COVID-19 treatments** because they are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19. People in this group will be contacted directly and sent lateral flow tests to keep at home for use if they have symptoms as well as being told how to reorder tests.
 - c) Individuals who live or work in high-risk closed settings**, for example, in some NHS, social care and prison (and other Places of Detention) settings where infection needs to be identified quickly to minimise outbreaks.
- RBK will continue to promote workplace testing for those where it is still part of guidance: e.g. NHS, adult social care and those who work in high-risk closed settings.
- Promote via RBK Communications, the places where test kits can be purchased.

PPE:

- Continue to provide PPE to frontline staff as and when required until our remaining stock has been depleted.
- Staff will then be invited to sign up to a national PPE ordering portal that care providers already have access to.

- Maintain an offer on emergency basis to care locations in the borough if requested via a contingency stock of PPE stored at Kingston Cemetery.

Kingston Stronger Together (support team for people self isolating):

- Continue to provide support to those who are symptomatic and infectious to others (or have tested positive) and have no friends or family to support them, utilising volunteer and digital support (can be in place until September 2022, Govt advice will be updated on 1st April 2022).
- Cease Pilot Voucher scheme

Vaccination:

- Focus on reaching those yet to take up offers through Vaccination Community Champions programmes (Jan-June 2022, DLUCH funded)
- Provide Insight and Data support to Community Champions work
- Repurpose RBK Local Contact Tracing Team to support for April and May 2022 where required (funded from Vaccination Champion funding)
- Maintain workplace link between Regulatory Services and Vaccine Champions and Public Health

Communications & Engagement:

COMMUNICATING WITH RESIDENTS AND PARTNERS

Kingston Council will continue to tailor local public health messaging appropriately in the borough, taking into account a range of factors including the epidemiological situation and any potential emerging Variants of Concern (VOCs), demographics, outbreak settings and the nature of the outbreak. These communications will equally focus on building community resilience by providing the knowledge and resources to enable individuals to care for themselves and others, and on enhancing the day-to-day health and wellbeing of communities to reduce the current and future negative impacts of COVID-19.

The approach that the borough will take on communications and engagement is set out in the comprehensive Keep Kingston Safe: Living with Covid-19 Communications and Engagement Strategy, outlined later in this document. The strategy will support the elements of the plan as detailed above. In addition, the strategy outlines how it will continue to support messaging and activities in partnership with elected members, voluntary sector, community groups, businesses and residents directly to promote the current national government guidance on behaviours to minimise disease transmissionⁿ, and to communicate and engage with residents in a reliable and informative way to promote continued uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine. Key components of communications activity include:

- Living with COVID-19 Communications & Engagement Strategy V1 as below
- Continue VCS promotion of key messages through Round 4 of the Contain (COMF) grant funding. Grants programme supporting Test & Trace and Outbreak Control communications to VCS groups has concluded (4 rounds of grants 2020-2022)
- Vaccination Community Champions communications and engagement grants to VCS in place Jan-June 2022

- VCS ‘Keeping up with the Data and Key Messages’ monthly sessions to continue, with focus on vaccination, staying safe and keeping healthy

Sub-Regional Arrangements:

- Work with SWL Public Health Partners, UKHSA & other colleagues re: Living with COVID-19, where working on a larger footprint makes sense.

Regional Arrangements:

- Work with London Regional Public Health Partners, **ADPH**, UKHSA & other colleagues (e.g. Resilience Forum, Mortuary Management) re: Living with COVID-19, where working on a regional footprint makes sense.

Learning from 2020-2022:

We are reviewing the local response work undertaken in Kingston 2020-2022. This is being done through surveys, data analysis and other methods. Any key findings and suggestions for the way forward and for any other enhanced responses will be incorporated into this plan (and future versions) when available.

Role of the Council and Partners and links to others

Responsibilities and Governance arrangements

The national and regional structures and processes have developed since the first draft of this plan in June 2020.

The regional arrangements for governance and support are being reviewed. An updated section on regional arrangements will be added in when available.

The key elements from the 2021 guidance, with some local adaptations regarding the borough level, are detailed below:

Local responsibilities and governance:

All local authorities are engaged in activities designed to respond to COVID-19 in their areas. In 2-tier areas, DsPH work closely with their district colleagues to ensure joined up tracing, enforcement and support for self-isolation. Regional Health protection Teams (HPTs) (the ‘London Coronavirus Response Cell’ known as ‘LCRC’ is the Regional HPT that supports Kingston) play a key role alongside local authority partners to combat outbreaks and deal with enduring transmission.

As well as working with HPTs, local systems will include emergency planning mechanisms which are widely used, including local resilience forums, supported by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, and engaging a full range of partners. This includes all of the emergency planning responsibilities of Category 1 responders and where necessary the deployment of regional and local resilience forums. Close working throughout the pandemic has strengthened and developed these existing partnerships.

While local arrangements will reflect local systems, clear governance is essential to ensure that each area operates effectively. Local governance of COVID-19 builds on existing practice and structures:

- the DPH has a statutory duty for the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan; supported by wider local authority teams as necessary
- the local authority Chief Executive is responsible for the local response, providing strategic leadership and direction, shaping local communications and engagement, and deploying local government resources
- local authorities, through their elected mayors and council leaders, are accountable to their local community for the local response, decisions and spending undertaken
- councillors, as local systems leaders, and local community leaders can facilitate systems relationships and community engagement
- the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 provides that other responders, through the local resilience forum (LRF), have a collective responsibility to plan, prepare and communicate in a multi-agency environment
- COVID-19 Response and Recovery Group provides resource coordination, and links to COVID-19 regional partnership teams and other key Category 1 responders from the local system

In Kingston, some changes have been made to the governance arrangements since the Local Outbreak Management Plan V7.2. See below:

- **COVID-19 Health Protection Board (existing Kingston Health Protection Forum, 'operational BRONZE')** - will continue with *outbreak management plans development by DPH and consider other Health Protection issues*
- **Covid-19 Strategic Coordinating Group (Gold Emergency Planning Group)** - *Has been stood down*
- **COVID-19 Silver Response Group** - *Has been stood down and replaced by COVID Recovery Group*
- **Kingston Borough Resilience Forum** - *the multi-agency partnership group will continue to meet and consider emergency plans and borough risks*
- **Local Outbreak Control Engagement Board** - *provide political ownership and public-facing engagement and communication for outbreak response (Kingston Strategic Partnership) (GROUP 3) (update to this group discussed and agreed on the 09/10/2020) - this role needs to be agreed by the KSP for this new phase in the response*

Terms of Reference for these groups have been drafted to reflect their roles in this outbreak control plan (See **Appendix 2**). The Terms of Reference may need amending to reflect the new 'phase' of response. The local borough governance links to regional and national mutual aid and coordination as detailed in sections below.

Local Outbreak Management

The Living with COVID-19 publication set out that the local response should now become more aligned with wider local health protection arrangements, bringing the lessons learnt from the pandemic to further develop the health protection system. The objective in this phase of the response is to enable the country to manage COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses, while minimising harm and retaining the ability to respond if a new variant emerges with more dangerous properties than the current dominant Omicron variant.

Local COVID-19 outbreak management will need to adjust to responding to COVID-19 as part of wider infectious disease functions. Given the wider strategic direction, outbreak management will need to focus on protecting those at highest risk from COVID-19. From 1 April 2022, the joint priorities for the national and local system relating to outbreak management will be:

- a) To continue COVID-19 outbreak management in high-risk settings to reduce the risk to vulnerable people within these settings. This will include working proactively with such settings to reduce the risk of importation and spread of COVID-19. Further information on high-risk settings in scope is awaited.
- b) To support COVID-19 outbreak investigation and management in other settings when needed to protect public health, alongside other respiratory illnesses.
- c) To support a range of settings to reduce the risk of, and to manage, COVID-19 outbreaks as part of usual practice, now including COVID-19 alongside other respiratory illnesses.
- d) Community engagement to support public health messaging and behaviour change including working with local partners, employers and with vulnerable people in their community through tailored and targeted communication. This includes continuing to promote positive behaviours that can reduce the transmission of respiratory and other viruses.

Regional Support and governance:

With the decommissioning of some regional and local COVID-19 response services, we await further details on how local Public Health Teams will link in regional partners in DHSC, NHSEI and other key government departments.

Roles and responsibilities

The role of UKHSA

1. UKHSA will support cross government work on setting the national strategic and policy direction on COVID-19 and publish public health guidance. It will use existing health protection frameworks to deliver this. As part of this approach, UKHSA will continue to focus on protecting the settings at highest risk.
2. UKHSA regional teams will continue to:
 - a. lead on management of outbreaks in higher risk settings and complex outbreak investigation and management;
 - b. provide intelligence and technical advice to LAs, NHS and other local stakeholders on COVID-19 response activities;
 - c. provide guidance in limited circumstances as outlined above, contribute to national surveillance; and
 - d. continue to play a key enabling role in collaborating with partners across Whitehall and connecting the national response and policy making to local response and feedback.

The role of LAs and Directors of Public Health (DsPH)

LAs have always played a critical role in health protection, emergency response and infectious disease control. As we move to living with COVID-19 it is expected that LAs will return to supporting outbreak management as they did pre-pandemic, now including COVID-19 alongside other respiratory infections. The Government's strategy means LAs will conduct minimal COVID-19 specific activities going forward, and as such no additional COVID-19 specific funding will be provided.

Where LAs choose to deliver support, UKHSA recommend they focus on the COVID-19 outbreak management priorities. In addition, UKHSA encourage continued collaboration between neighbouring LAs and within the local system, to share resources and best practice approaches, to maximise the impact of the activities.

DsPH have an existing [statutory duty](#) in planning for, and responding to, emergencies that present a risk to the public's health. As we move into treating COVID-19 in line with other respiratory illnesses, UKHSA expect DsPH will continue to have a vital leadership role in health protection locally and will seek to enable appropriate health protection support.

National support and governance:

We await further guidance on the national support and governance structure in this new phase.

Mutual aid requests to neighbouring boroughs

Mutual Aid Requests to neighbouring boroughs within the Local (SW London) Resilience Forum have been discussed at DPH level, and would be actioned if required. It has also been noted that outbreaks do not respect geographical boundaries and therefore joint work with neighbours/ Surrey may be required to bring a local outbreak under control.

Data and Surveillance

Although some datasets have been discontinued, we are continuing to regularly monitor all available local, regional and national data sources and producing regular analysis updates to interpret the latest picture, highlight current trends and potential areas for action. The available data sources include:

- Current testing and infection rates, within Kingston as well as Greater London and Surrey; including schools and care homes.
- Hospitalisations and intensive care use
- ONS infection survey
- Waste water Covid-19 surveillance (paused for April-June 2022)
- Data on existing and emerging variants
- Vaccination uptake
- DfE weekly school returns
- Adult Social Care setting data

The core Covid-19 data review meetings ('DCDM' meeting) continue weekly, involving colleagues from Public Health, Regulatory Services, Adult Social Care, Achieving for Children and the South West London CCG. Outputs and summaries to inform other individuals and groups, such as the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Team and Kingston's Borough Resilience Forum and the local communications approach.

How to stay safe

COVID-19 vaccination, particularly when booster doses have been received, provides a high level of protection against severe disease, hospitalisation and death. However, it is still possible to get COVID-19 and to pass it on to others. While COVID-19 is circulating, there are a variety of other measures that individuals, workplaces, and other locations can take to minimise transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections. The key measures that can be taken to stay safe and to reduce spread are:

- **Getting COVID-19 vaccinations** and having boosters when offered
- Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or otherwise meeting outside
- Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where coming into contact with people you do not usually meet and when rates of transmission are high
- Trying to stay at home if unwell
- Staying at home and avoiding/limiting contact with other people if you are positive or have [symptoms](#)
- Washing hands and following advice to “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”

Please follow the up to date guidance on living safely with respiratory infections including COVID-19 and what actions to take if you have symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test result:

- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ventilation](#)
- “Catch it, bin it, kill it” resource - [catch-bin-kill.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Vaccination

All those 5 years and over are now being offered vaccination. A further dose of vaccine is being offered to those over 75 years, residents in care homes for older adults and people aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed. **The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) will continue its rolling review of the vaccination programme and the epidemiological situation, particularly in relation to the timing and value of doses for less vulnerable older adults and those in clinical risk groups ahead of autumn 2022. Rapid response measures may be required if there are substantial changes in our understanding of vaccine protection against the Omicron variant, or major changes in the unfolding epidemiology of COVID-19. JCVI will provide more definitive advice regarding an autumn booster programme in due course.** Kingston Council has been funded by the DLUCH to support a new Vaccine Community Champions programme between January and June 2022. The council will work with NHS and community partners to ensure no-one is missed from the vaccine offer.

The NHS, Council, Kingston voluntary organisations and local community groups are working in partnership to continue to roll out the COVID-19 vaccination programme locally. The NHS leads this vaccine programme. The programme will carry on working with underserved communities to enable access, reduce barriers and close gaps in disparities in

the take-up of vaccines, reducing inequalities. Roving models, outreach to underserved communities, pop-up community walk-in vaccine clinics and door knocking has taken place with sections of the community where the vaccine take-up has been lower. Walk-in and pop up vaccination clinics are being promoted amongst local voluntary and community sector organisations to support people's access to vaccines. Information & advice has been translated into a number of languages in addition to English and both promoted through & with communities in addition to using programmatic and targeted marketing.

Work will continue to support communities to take up the vaccination and access booster vaccines, in particular amongst at risk groups and where vaccination rates remain low. Additional resource and work is informed by known uptake data, the inequalities within that data and from local intelligence provided by our local voluntary and community sector.

Workplaces are being supported in collaboration with environmental health throughout the vaccination programme with advice, information, signposting and the offer of onsite vaccination pop ups where needed.

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

Protecting people most vulnerable

Most people who were identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are now well protected after receiving their primary and booster COVID-19 vaccination doses. For most people who were CEV, they are no longer at substantially greater risk than the general population, and are advised to follow the same guidance as everyone else on staying safe and preventing the spread of respiratory infections including COVID-19, as well as any further advice they may have received from their doctor. There is no longer separate guidance for people previously identified as CEV, although it is recommended that anyone with underlying health conditions takes care to avoid routine coughs, colds and other respiratory viruses.

If someone who is immunosuppressed has not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine, it is recommended that they [get vaccinated](#). Evidence indicates that completion of a primary course of COVID-19 vaccine (either 2 or 3 doses) provides very effective protection against hospitalisation. It usually takes around 2 to 3 weeks for one's body to develop its protective response. To maintain this high level of protection one should also get any booster doses for COVID-19 when offered.

The Government will continue to be guided by the JCVI advice on deploying vaccinations. Subject to JCVI advice, further vaccinations (boosters) may be recommended for people who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 this autumn and, ahead of that, a spring booster for groups JCVI consider to be at particularly high risk.

Those whose immune system means they are at higher risk of serious illness if they become infected with COVID-19 may also be offered monoclonal antibody and antiviral treatments. Patients eligible for COVID-19 treatments will be able to access lateral flow tests from the government but they will no longer be automatically sent PCR tests. If you were previously sent a PCR test you can keep it, but do not use it unless asked to do so by your NHS team. One initial pack of lateral flow tests will be sent to keep at home. This is a test that can be done at home and can be used to find out if you have COVID-19. If you have not received the lateral flow tests by 11 April but you think you may be eligible for COVID-19 treatments, you can order a pack at GOV.UK or 119 if needed. You must use lateral flow tests supplied by the government.

Further guidance can be found:

Shielding and protecting extremely vulnerable persons from COVID-19:

[Guidance for people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)

People with whose immune systems mean they are at higher risk:

[COVID-19: guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk - GOV.UK](#)

For people who have yet to take up their initial vaccine offer, the NHS continues to make vaccines available across the UK to ensure that every eligible person who wants a vaccine can get one. The council will support this by promoting these offers. The Government will continue to provide flexible delivery models to ensure vaccines remain accessible. The Government will continue to support communities with lower rates of COVID-19 vaccine uptake, particularly in areas of deprivation and for ethnic minority groups. The Kingston Community Champions will work to address barriers to accurate vaccine information and encourage individuals to get vaccinated.

Support for residents by Kingston Stronger Together Hub

Kingston Stronger Together Hub is available to support Kingston residents (18+) who are self isolating with COVID-19. The team can also support with community care needs, including emotional support for those impacted by COVID-19 and access to appropriate services, with the focus on prevention and early intervention.

The contact details to access Kingston Stronger Together support are as follows:

- https://www.kingston.gov.uk/COVID-19_NeedHelp
- If you or someone you know needs support, please fill in this support form and we will contact you.
- If you do not have online access you can phone 020 8547 5000

The Kingston Stronger Together Hub will also be available to mobilise partner and volunteer responses and support as it has done over the last two years. For example, the service may be called upon to support outbreak management and mobilise increased offers in the unfortunate event of any resurgences or further restrictions.

Maintaining Resilience

As set out in the introduction, the future path and severity of the virus is uncertain and it may take several years before the virus becomes more predictable. During this period further resurgences will occur, it is possible more severe variants will emerge and there will sadly be more hospitalisations and deaths. As a result, the Government is taking steps to ensure there are plans in place to maintain resilience against significant resurgences or future variants and remains ready to act if a dangerous variant risks placing unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

The Government's aim is to manage and respond to these risks through more routine public health interventions. As such, the NHS has developed a range of interventions to respond to COVID-19 demand while protecting NHS activity to the fullest possible extent. In future, pharmaceutical capabilities will be the first line of defence in responding to COVID-19 if risk threatens to place unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

The Government will retain surveillance to monitor the virus, understand its evolution and identify changes in characteristics, enabling the Government to make informed decisions. The Government will prepare and maintain the capabilities to ramp up testing and other tools such as laboratory infrastructure to be used as a line of defence against a new variant.

The council will support any actions as outlined by national government and regional partners. It is important to note that no further funding has been provided to the council beyond the COVID-19 'Contain' funds in 2020/21. As such, we will no longer have available testing and tracing functions and other response and resilience resources which were funded by these grant funds in 2020-22 beyond March 2022.

Contingency planning

Local partners have significantly stepped up to support local outbreak management. In future the Government expects COVID-19 to be managed regionally and locally as part of a wider all hazards approach, using existing health protection frameworks. However, further clarity is needed on what role the council is expected to play at the local level in terms of COVID-19. Further, funding for the many elements of the response 2020-2022 is no longer in place (including for personnel as part of this response).

The Government is set to revise current COVID-19 outbreak management advice and frameworks, to set out the support that local authorities and other system partners (such as LRFs, regional health protection teams, the NHS and others) can expect from regional and national stakeholders and the core policy and tools for contingency response. The Government will continue to provide guidance via UKHSA engagement with local partners.

The Kingston Contingency Plan for the local response to a Variant of Concern was drafted in 2021 and will be updated and agreed with UKHSA based on any new guidance and new arrangements regarding local roles and responsibilities

Kingston Council, like other local authorities, will play a role in responding to VoC outbreaks if required at the request of UKHSA. The council will support UKHSA to help identify and isolate positive cases, while working with Kingston residents and local community groups to help support the local responses, to manage any outbreak. Kingston Council will work with

the community to raise awareness of the risk from variants and to seek their cooperation with the response using targeted, culturally sensitive communications and engagement campaigns, to drive greater compliance with the response.

Contact tracing

It is recognised that since 2020 Local Tracing Partnerships between all Local Authorities in England and NHS Test & Trace/ UKHSA has helped to reach many more positive cases than a national-only model. Local Tracing in particular has shown a greater contribution in areas of high deprivation and providing necessary support to targeted community isolation compliance and vulnerable members of the community. Although we are in the next phase of “Living with Covid”, Local Tracing Partnerships have been advised to be prepared in case of further variants and the potential need to be able to stand up tracing services again for further surges or variants of concern, which are still anticipated. A small team of contact tracers remain at a national and regional level to support outbreaks and high risk settings. We have the equipment and network of tracers who may be able to take up a local tracing role again, if required. It is important to note, however, that the team is not currently working as tracers and funding for tracing, through the Contain (COMF) fund has now been fully utilised and is no longer available.

Testing: Contingency capabilities

The Government will retain core infrastructure and capabilities in England to scale up testing in the case of a new variant of concern. Locally, we will agree a process on upscaling based on experience over the last 17 months of setting up Asymptomatic Test Sites and deployment of mobile testing teams to undertake secondary school and outbreak testing and targeted community testing. However, it is important to note that the local test team has been stood down and is no longer in employment with the council. Contain (COMF) grant funding for the test team has now also been fully utilised.

All local test sites have closed in line with national policy. It is expected that UKHSA will retain a small number of Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) that will be available for operation as a contingency measure.

The Government will help enable COVID-19 tests to be made available for those who wish to purchase them through the private market. Private markets are established in many European countries - including France, Germany, Italy and Spain - and the United States of America. The Government is working with retailers and pharmacies to help establish the private market in testing. See [Finding and choosing a private coronavirus \(COVID-19\) test provider - GOV.UK](#) for approved providers.

Symptomatic testing in high-risk settings, where infection can spread rapidly among people who may be at higher risk of serious illness, remains important to ensure that COVID-19 is detected as quickly as possible. This is to help minimise the number and impact of outbreaks to protect those who are most vulnerable. Free tests for people who have COVID-19 symptoms will continue to be provided largely via the existing channels.

During periods of high prevalence, asymptomatic testing will continue to mitigate risk. Testing will continue to be provided for:

- adult social care staff and a small number of visitors providing personal care only
- hospice staff
- patient-facing staff in the NHS and NHS-funded independent healthcare provision
- some staff in prisons and other places of detention, and some refuges and shelters

Care home outbreak testing for all staff and residents will also continue all year.

Independent healthcare providers (IHPs) delivering NHS-commissioned services continue to be eligible to access free asymptomatic testing. This means that those working in England for an IHP in an NHS patient-facing role will be eligible for twice-weekly free asymptomatic testing, but other staff will not. IHPs must define “patient-facing” eligibility at a local level, considering local circumstances. For eligible staff, testing will now be accessed by following this [link](#) rather than the current supply route where providers order on behalf of their staff. When staff are ordering they will be asked if they work for the NHS, please ask them to choose the “No” option; tests will be issued directly to staff residential addresses rather than being distributed to a workplace.

Non NHS Commissioned IHPs are ineligible for free tests and will be required to source test kits if required for those at high risk through [Finding and choosing a private coronavirus \(COVID-19\) test provider - GOV.UK](#) for approved providers and [here](#) for COVID-19 test validation approved products.

Please see [Changes to COVID-19 testing in England from 1 April - GOV.UK](#) and specialised setting guidance for further detail.

Tackling health inequalities

COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing socio-economic and health inequalities, contributing to poorer outcomes amongst those who were already disadvantaged. The ‘Build Back Fairer: COVID-19 Marmot Review’⁴ presented risk factors associated with excess mortality, and outlined the rapid need to address and prevent the disparities in underlying health conditions behind the pandemic’s direct impact. For example, nationally, one fifth of COVID related death certificates to May 2020 mentioned diabetes, a condition closely related with being overweight. Older men, and those with lower incomes, and Black, Asian & minority ethnic groups made up proportionally greater numbers of these mortality cases, alongside age as the greatest risk factor.

Since the start of the pandemic, both the NHS and local government have accelerated some preventative health programmes (although some have also been impacted and delayed by the pandemic) which proactively engage those at greatest risk of poorer health outcomes to address health inequalities. We will continue to support communities with lower rates of

⁴ Institute of Health Equity (2020) Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review
<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review>

COVID-19 vaccine uptake, particularly in areas of deprivation and for ethnic minority groups as part of its approach to both reducing health disparities and living with COVID-19, but also to support the wider health and social care system.

Kingston's Health & Care Plan 2022-24, as part of a whole system, partnership approach to improving population health and wellbeing sets out the approach to help address some of the local health inequalities. The plan includes targeted 'Living with COVID-19' support and promotion amongst disadvantaged and underserved population groups, including older people, those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, and those on a low income, using COVID-19 'CONTAIN' (COMF) grants as well as existing funds. A range of local organisations are specifically resourced and are being supported with information to tailor their community engagement through a Community Champions model to promote further vaccine uptake, health promoting behaviour change, and self isolation support messaging as part of further infection and outbreak control. Partnership working, and a post-Covid support model is being developed to help tackle food, fuel and financial insecurity by enabling residents to access support to prevent or deal with financial concerns or problems. This includes help to secure employment, preventing poorer health outcomes i.e. through referrals to and the provision of appropriate community support and appropriate services.

Targeted funds (funded under the 'Enduring Transmission' element of the Contain COMF funds - see Keep Kingston Safe: Local Outbreak Management PPlan V7.2 for further details) are enabling extension of operational programmes such as whole family approaches to healthy weight (HENRY parenting) and free adult weight management offers to address pre-existing inequalities associated with obesity across the life course. This is being complemented by extending the use of paid social media and other communication channels to provide wider whole resident population messaging about behaviour change associated with weight-related health conditions and prevention support.

Living with COVID-19 - Staying Healthy

As the data has shown, diabetes and obesity have been found to be major risk factors for poor outcomes from COVID-19. Kingston provides access to a range of direct healthy lifestyle interventions alongside other partners in statutory and community sectors, accessible through the [Connected Kingston](#) website. Services are just one element of staying healthy - in this 'Living with COVID-19' phase, we need to ensure that our built environment helps people stay healthy (e.g. through ventilation, access to active travel e.g. bike lanes, paths and safe and attractive places to exercise for all ages).

Specialised settings

Specialised setting outbreak management plans (COVID-19): Care Home Providers

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

As the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, everyone should continue to take precautions to protect themselves and others. For Care Homes, please follow specific national guidance for your setting. Efforts have been made to include as much key guidance as is available in this section below. Always refer to the latest national guidance on actions for care homes.

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Staying Safe, Testing and Infection Prevention and Control:

Testing

- [COVID-19 testing in adult social care - GOV.UK](#)
- [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for hospices - GOV.UK](#)
- [If you are having trouble accessing PCR/LFD tests, please contact 119](#)

Staying Safe

Infection Prevention and Control measures are a priority in care home settings. Please find links to staying safe guidance below:

- [Summary of changes to COVID-19 guidance for adult social care providers - GOV.UK](#)
- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK](#)
- respiratory hygiene ([catch it, bin it, kill it](#))
- [COVID-19: information and advice for health and care professionals - GOV.UK](#)
- [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK](#)
- [NICE infection prevention and control precautions](#)
- [COVID-19: personal protective equipment use for non-aerosol generating procedures - GOV.UK](#)
- [NHS England » National infection prevention and control](#)

Vaccination

For the latest guidance on who is eligible for a covid vaccination please visit the [NHS website](#).

For information on how you can get your vaccine in Kingston please visit:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

Reporting COVID-19 cases:

Care Homes with a COVID-19 outbreak are advised to notify the UKHSA Health Protection team (LCRC) of an outbreak and receive their guidance. Contact: LCRC@phe.gov.uk

All care home settings should continue to report Covid-19 case data via the [Capacity Tracker](#).

RBK Adult Social Care (ASC) reviews the Capacity Tracker on a daily basis. This is used to inform care commissioners. RBK ASC has changed the frequency of the ASC COVID SITREP calls to once weekly. A regular email update about the care provider market capacity is sent to ASC and PH leadership.

Getting help with an outbreak of respiratory illness including COVID-19:

Please report the following to **LCRC**:

- A new outbreak (two or more linked cases) of COVID-19
- A suspected acute respiratory outbreak and symptomatic individuals are COVID-19 negative
- A new or ongoing outbreak of respiratory illness, including COVID-19 with where there is serious illness, hospital admissions or deaths
- If you are concerned that the outbreak is not under control, where there is increasing complexity or a rising tide of cases

Kingston Public Health can also be contacted with queries or for advice.

UKHSA LCRC:

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.00pm, Sunday CLOSED

Telephone: 0300-303-0450

Infection Prevention and control support:

Your Healthcare can be contacted for IPC support (The team will respond **within 48 hours** or sooner where possible):

Your Healthcare, Urgent Care & Support Service (for care homes)

Email: ucss@yourhealthcare.org

Contact number: 02082747088

The SWL CCG Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) lead currently offers the IPC Championship programme supported by regular weekly webinars for care homes. To find out more about becoming an IPC Champion in your setting, contact Debbie Calver at debbie.calver@swlondon.nhs.uk

Key guidance on outbreaks in care homes:

[COVID-19: information and advice for health and care professionals - GOV.UK](#)

[Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement - GOV.UK](#)

[Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult social care services - GOV.UK](#)

Admission and care of residents in a care home during COVID-19:

[Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement - GOV.UK](#)

[NHS England » National infection prevention and control](#)

Visiting a care home, visiting when a care home has a COVID-19 outbreak:

[Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement - GOV.UK](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult social care services - GOV.UK](#)

Admissions to care homes with a COVID-19 outbreak:

On an exceptional basis where pressures on the hospital system and care system are high, consideration may be given to placing a resident in a home with a COVID-19 outbreak. In this instance, the Kingston COVID-19 'Dynamic Risk Assessment' (DRA) process, agreed by RBK GOLD, would be used for decision making. Any admission via this route solely be made following the satisfactory completion of a robust risk assessment using DRA tool and once all parties agree that the admission to the care home can proceed i.e. PH, ASC/CG, care provider, individual and Next of Kin/ family. This option is used as a last resort only after exhausting all locally available care homes without a COVID-19 outbreak.

Specialised setting outbreak management plans (COVID-19): Domiciliary Care

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

As the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, everyone should continue to take precautions to protect themselves and others. To continue efforts to Keep Kingston Safe, all settings should follow the advice outlined in the [Living with COVID-19](#) and [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) guidance and follow the general public health messages outlined in [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) and below. For Domiciliary Care, please follow specific national guidance for these settings. Efforts have been made to include as much key guidance as is available in this section below. Always refer to the latest national guidance on actions for Domiciliary Care.

All domiciliary care settings should already have contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) detailing how they would exceptionally and temporarily reintroduce any measures. Further guidance to support domiciliary care settings to stay safe and develop individual contingency plans can be found: [NHS England » National infection prevention and control](#) and [Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement - GOV.UK](#)

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Staying Safe and Testing:

Infection Prevention and Control measures are a priority in care settings. Please find links to staying safe guidance below.

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult social care services - GOV.UK](#) guidance
- If you test positive for COVID-19, follow the guidance in the [COVID-19: managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection - GOV.UK](#). If you develop [symptoms of COVID-19](#), stay at home and follow the guidance.
- Anyone working in adult social care who is not part of regular testing at work, guidance on obtaining COVID-19 lateral flow tests can be found here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult social care services - GOV.UK](#)
- **If you are having trouble accessing PCR/LFD tests, please contact 119**

Infection Prevention and Control

IPC measures should continue to be practised in home care to reduce transmission of respiratory infections including COVID-19 and other infections such as norovirus. This includes regular cleaning, good ventilation, limiting social contact and hand hygiene.

PPE must be used correctly and is only effective when combined with:

- cleaning your hands regularly and appropriately for at least 20 seconds
- respiratory hygiene ([catch it, bin it, kill it](#)) and avoiding touching your face with your hands
- following standard [infection prevention and control precautions](#)
- [Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement -](#)

- [COVID-19: personal protective equipment use for non-aerosol generating procedures - GOV.UK](#)
- [COVID-19: information and advice for health and care professionals - GOV.UK](#)
- [NHS England » National infection prevention and control](#)

Domiciliary care providers can access free PPE for COVID-19 needs via the [PPE portal](#).

Vaccination

For the latest guidance on who is eligible for a Covid-19 vaccination please visit the [NHS website](#).

For information on how you can get your vaccine in Kingston please visit:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination or would like more information.

You must complete the **Capacity Tracker** and report all COVID-19 cases for your service staff and service users.

Getting help with an outbreak of respiratory illness including COVID-19:

Please report the following to **LCRC**:

- A new outbreak (two or more linked cases) of COVID-19
- A suspected acute respiratory outbreak and symptomatic individuals are COVID-19 negative
- A new or ongoing outbreak of respiratory illness, including COVID-19 with where there is serious illness, hospital admissions or deaths

If you are concerned that the outbreak is not under control, where there is increasing complexity or a rising tide of cases

Domiciliary care providers are advised to notify the UKHSA Health Protection team (LCRC) of an outbreak and receive their guidance. Contact: LCRC@phe.gov.uk

LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Cell):

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.00pm, Sunday CLOSED

Please update the **Capacity Tracker** and report all COVID-19 cases for your service staff and service users.

Health Protection advice

Domiciliary care providers should contact the UKHSA (LCRC as above) in the first instance for Health protection advice on COVID-19. Kingston Public Health can also be contacted with queries or for advice.

Kingston Public Health

Email: covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk (Monday to Friday 9-5pm, monitored once daily)

Out of Hours Telephone: 0208 547 5800 and ask for the Public Health Point of Contact

Key guidance on outbreaks in domiciliary care

[NHS England » National infection prevention and control](#)

[Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement - GOV.UK](#)

[COVID-19: managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection - GOV.UK](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult social care services - GOV.UK](#)

In addition to the specific advice for your setting, please consider advice for:

- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ventilation](#)
- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [“Catch it, bin it, kill it” resource](#)

Specialised setting outbreak management plans (COVID-19): Hostels, homeless and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

As the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, everyone should continue to take precautions to protect themselves and others. To continue efforts to Keep Kingston Safe, all settings should follow the advice outlined in the [Living with COVID-19](#) and [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) guidance and follow the general public health messages outlined in [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) and below.

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Setting specific guidance

All hostel settings should already have contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) detailing how they would exceptionally and temporarily reintroduce any measures. Guidance to support hostel services for people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping to stay safe and develop individual contingency plans can be found in:

- [COVID-19: guidance for commissioners and providers of hostel services for people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping](#)
- [COVID-19: guidance for commissioners and providers of night shelters for people experiencing rough sleeping](#)

Vaccination

For the latest guidance on who is eligible for a covid vaccination please visit the [NHS website](#).

For information on how you can get your vaccine in Kingston please visit:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

Find and Treat Team: Complete and attach a completed [referral form](#) and send to haltTeam.cnwl@nhs.net for an onsite vaccination session for residents and staff

In addition to the specific advice for your setting, please consider advice for:

- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK](#)
- respiratory hygiene ([catch it, bin it, kill it](#))

Additional measures in the event of an outbreak

Local authorities need a clear picture of all alternative local provisions that could be used in the case of an outbreak. Where local authorities are unable to meet the emergency needs of a hostel provider, they should liaise with the London Resilience Forum. In the event of an outbreak, settings should contact the Pan-London Find and Treat Teams

- **Find and Treat Team:** Complete and attach this completed [referral form](#) and send to haltTeam.cnwl@nhs.net.
- If you are referring a symptomatic individual from a Hostel Outreach Team, please contact the Find and Treat team directly on 0203 447 9842.

Health Protection advice

Setting providers or commissioners can contact Kingston Public Health with queries or for advice. Where there is a significant concern, you can contact London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC).

Kingston Public Health

Email: covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk (Monday to Friday 9-5pm)

Out of Hours Telephone: 0208 547 5800) and ask for the Public Health Point of Contact

LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Cell):

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm, Sunday CLOSED

Telephone: 0300-303-0450

Specialised setting outbreak management plans (COVID-19): Schools - mainstream schools and SEND settings

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

As the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, everyone should continue to take precautions to protect themselves and others. To continue efforts to Keep Kingston Safe, all educational settings should follow the advice outlined in the [Living with COVID-19](#) and [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) guidance and follow the general public health messages outlined in [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) and below.

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Most infectious diseases in education, childcare, and children's social care settings can be managed by following the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) health protection in education and childcare settings guidance. All educational settings are advised to have emergency plans that should include a range of steps that you might take in the event of a significant public health incident. They should also include when you might consider seeking specialist advice from your UKHSA health protection team in line with the UKHSA [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#) guidance.

The new guidance for educational settings that replaces the Contingency Framework and Schools operational guidance:

- [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK](#)
- [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)

In addition to the specific advice for your setting, please consider advice on:

- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ventilation](#)
- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [E bug resources](#)
- HSE [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Advice for workplaces](#)
- [Good estate management for schools - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Health Protection advice

There are no specific thresholds for outbreak control measures and the general advice above applies in all scenarios of respiratory/COVID-19 cases.

LCRC advise that most infectious diseases, including respiratory and COVID-19 in education and childcare settings, can be managed by following the advice provided the updated version of the [Health Protection in schools and other childcare settings](#) and ensuring children, young people and staff follow the recommended exclusion periods.

Please however, report the following to LCRC:

- A death of a staff member/pupil due to respiratory infections, including COVID-19

If a pupil or staff member is hospitalised (due to respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19), this **does not** routinely need to be reported, but if you would like advice, including with regards to communications you may also contact LCRC for support.

Single cases

You do not need to report single cases of COVID or other respiratory illness.

LCRC:

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm, Sunday CLOSED

Kingston Public Health can also be contacted for local support.

UKHSA South London Health Protection Team

Email: slhpt.oncall@phe.gov.uk

Telephone: 0344 326 2052 (Daytime and Out of Hours)

Kingston Public Health

Email: covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk (Monday to Friday 9-5pm checked daily)

Out of Hours Telephone: 0208 547 5800) and ask for the Public Health Point of Contact

Vaccination

For the latest guidance on who is eligible for a covid vaccination please visit the [NHS website](#).

For information on how you can get your vaccine in Kingston please visit:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

School settings where there are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff, can also email covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk if they would like to discuss having a vaccination pop up session or a vaccine champion visit for staff.

SEND settings and schools with SEND provision

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

As the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, everyone should continue to take precautions to protect themselves and others. To continue efforts to Keep Kingston Safe, all settings should follow the advice outlined in the [Living with COVID-19](#) and [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) guidance and follow the general public health messages outlined in [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) and below.

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Most infectious diseases in education, childcare, and children's social care settings can be managed by following the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) health protection in education and childcare settings guidance. All educational settings are advised to have emergency plans that should include a range of steps that you might take in the event of a significant public health incident. They should also include when you might consider seeking specialist advice from your UKHSA health protection team in line with the UKHSA [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#) guidance.

The new guidance for educational settings that replaces the Contingency Framework and Schools operational guidance:

- [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK](#)
- [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)

In addition to the specific advice for your setting, please consider advice on:

- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ventilation](#)
- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [E bug resource](#)
- Order PPE via the [PPE portal](#) if required

LCRC advice

There are no specific thresholds for outbreak control measures and the general advice above applies in all scenarios of respiratory/COVID-19 cases.

LCRC advise that most infectious diseases, including respiratory and COVID-19 in education and childcare settings, can be managed by following the advice provided the updated version of the [Health Protection in schools and other childcare settings](#) and ensuring children, young people and staff follow the recommended exclusion periods.

Please however, report the following to LCRC::

- A death of a staff member/pupil due to respiratory infections, including COVID-19
- An acute respiratory infection outbreak, including COVID-19 in a **SEND school with medically vulnerable children** i.e. immunocompromised or school carrying out Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs)
- A new or ongoing outbreak in SEND school or boarding school, without medically vulnerable children (but where school have seen a rapid increase in case numbers)
- A SEND school with difficulties in applying the outbreak control measures due to residential setting or increasing complexity e.g. hospital admissions

Kingston Public Health can also be contacted for local support.

UKHSA South London Health Protection Team

Email: slhpt.oncall@phe.gov.uk

Telephone: 0344 326 2052 (Daytime and Out of Hours)

Kingston Public Health

Email: covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk (Monday to Friday 9-5pm)

Out of Hours Telephone: 0208 547 5800) and ask for the Public Health Point of Contact

LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Cell):

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm, Sunday CLOSED

Telephone: 0300-303-0450

Vaccination

For the latest guidance on who is eligible for a covid vaccination please visit the [NHS website](#).

For information on how you can get your vaccine in Kingston please visit:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

School settings where there are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff, can also email covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk if they would like to discuss having a vaccination pop up session or a vaccine champion visit for staff.

Specialised setting outbreak management plans (COVID-19): Early Years Settings

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

As the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, everyone should continue to take precautions to protect themselves and others. To continue efforts to Keep Kingston Safe, all settings should follow the advice outlined in the [Living with COVID-19](#) and [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) guidance and follow the general public health messages outlined in [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) and below.

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Most infectious diseases in education, childcare, and children's social care settings can be managed by following the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) health protection in education and childcare settings guidance. All educational settings are advised to have emergency plans that should include a range of steps that you might take in the event of a significant public health incident. They should also include when you might consider seeking specialist advice from your UKHSA health protection team in line with the UKHSA [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#) guidance.

The new guidance for educational settings that replaces the Contingency Framework and Schools operational guidance:

- [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK](#)
- [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)

In addition to the specific advice for your setting, please consider advice on:

- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ventilation](#)
- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [E bug resource](#)

Health Protection advice

There are no specific thresholds for outbreak control measures and the general advice above applies in all scenarios of respiratory/COVID-19 cases.

LCRC advise that most infectious diseases, including respiratory and COVID-19 in education and childcare settings, can be managed by following the advice provided the updated version of the [Health Protection in schools and other childcare settings](#) and ensuring children, young people and staff follow the recommended exclusion periods.

Please however, report the following to LCRC:

- A death of a staff member/pupil due to respiratory infections, including COVID-19

If a pupil or staff member is hospitalised (due to respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19), this **does not** routinely need to be reported, but if you would like advice, including with regards to communications you may also contact LCRC for support.

Single cases

You **do not** need to report single cases of COVID or other respiratory illness.

Kingston Public Health can also be contacted for local support.

UKHSA South London Health Protection Team

Email: slhpt.oncall@phe.gov.uk

Telephone: 0344 326 2052 (Daytime and Out of Hours)

Kingston Public Health

Email: covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk (Monday to Friday 9-5pm)

Out of Hours Telephone: 0208 547 5800) and ask for the Public Health Point of Contact

LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Cell):

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.00pm, Sunday CLOSED

Telephone: 0300-303-0450

Vaccination

For the latest guidance on who is eligible for a covid vaccination please visit the [NHS website](#).

For information on how you can get your vaccine in Kingston please visit:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

Early years settings where there are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff, can also email covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk if they would like to discuss having a vaccination pop up session or a vaccine champion visit for staff.

Specialised setting outbreak management plans (COVID-19): Children's Social Care

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

As the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, everyone should continue to take precautions to protect themselves and others. To continue efforts to Keep Kingston Safe, Kingston Social Care team will follow the advice outlined in the [Living with COVID-19](#) and [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) guidance and follow the general public health messages outlined in [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) and below.

- [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK](#)
- [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)
- [Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings: code of practice - GOV.UK](#)
- Order PPE via the [PPE portal](#) if required

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Most infectious diseases in education, childcare, and children's social care settings can be managed by following the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) health protection in education and childcare settings guidance. All educational settings are advised to have emergency plans that should include a range of steps that you might take in the event of a significant public health incident. They should also include when you might consider seeking specialist advice from your UKHSA health protection team in line with the UKHSA [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#) guidance.

The new guidance for educational settings that replaces the Contingency Framework and Schools operational guidance:

- [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK](#)
- [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)
- [Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings: code of practice - GOV.UK](#)

In addition to the specific advice for your setting, please consider advice on:

- [Ventilation](#)
- [E bug resources](#)
- [Reducing the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, in the workplace - GOV.UK](#)
- Order PPE via the [PPE portal](#) if required

Health Protection advice

There are no specific thresholds for outbreak control measures and the general advice above applies in all scenarios of respiratory/COVID-19 cases.

LCRC advise that most infectious diseases, including respiratory and COVID-19 in education and childcare settings, can be managed by following the advice provided the updated version of the [Health Protection in schools and other childcare settings](#) and ensuring children, young people and staff follow the recommended exclusion periods.

Please however, report the following to LCRC:

- A death of a staff member/pupil due to respiratory infections, including COVID-19

If a pupil or staff member is hospitalised (due to respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19), this **does not** routinely need to be reported, but if you would like advice, including with regards to communications you may also contact LCRC for support.

Single cases

You do not need to report single cases of COVID or other respiratory illness.

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Email: covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk (Monday to Friday 9-5pm)

Out of Hours Telephone: 0208 547 5800) and ask for the Public Health Point of Contact

LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Cell):

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.00pm, Sunday CLOSED

Telephone: 0300-303-0450

DfE incident support helpline:

Telephone: 0800 046 8687 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) The DfE incident support helpline (formerly the COVID-19 helpline) is available to support the education sector, with any questions you have about COVID-19 and other national incidents and emergencies, which impact on education, childcare and children's social care.

Vaccination

For the latest guidance on who is eligible for a covid vaccination please visit the [NHS website](#).

For information on how you can get your vaccine in Kingston please visit:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

Children's Social Care settings where there are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff, can also email covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk if they would like to discuss having a vaccination pop up session or a vaccine champion visit for staff.

Specialised setting outbreak management plans (COVID-19): Further Education & Higher Education settings

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

As the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, everyone should continue to take precautions to protect themselves and others. To continue efforts to Keep Kingston Safe, all settings should follow the advice outlined in the [Living with COVID-19](#) and [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) guidance and follow the general public health messages outlined in [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#) and below.

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Most infectious diseases in education, childcare, and children's social care settings can be managed by following the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) health protection in education and childcare settings guidance. All educational settings are advised to have emergency plans that should include a range of steps that you might take in the event of a significant public health incident. They should also include when you might consider seeking specialist advice from your UKHSA health protection team in line with the UKHSA [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#) guidance.

The new guidance for educational settings that replaces the Contingency Framework and Schools operational guidance:

- [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK](#)
- [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK](#)

In addition to the specific advice for your setting, please consider advice on:

- [Ventilation](#)
- [Reducing the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, in the workplace - GOV.UK](#)

Health Protection advice

If you are an HE provider, you should ensure that responses to the most serious public health incidents are discussed with your local director of public health and agreed in advance as part of your contingency planning, for example for the start of academic years.

There are no specific thresholds for outbreak control measures and the general advice applies in all scenarios of respiratory/COVID-19 cases.

LCRC advise that most infectious diseases, including respiratory and COVID-19 in education and childcare settings, can be managed by following the advice provided the updated version of the [Health Protection in schools and other childcare settings](#) and ensuring children, young people and staff follow the recommended exclusion periods.

Please however, report the following to LCRC:

- A death of a staff member/pupil due to respiratory infections, including COVID-19

If a pupil or staff member is hospitalised (due to respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19), this **does not** routinely need to be reported, but if you would like advice, including with regards to communications you may also contact LCRC for support.

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LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Cell):

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.00pm, Sunday CLOSED

Telephone: 0300-303-0450

Vaccination

For the latest guidance on who is eligible for a covid vaccination please visit the [NHS](#)

[website](#).

For information on how you can get your vaccine in Kingston please visit:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

Specialised setting outbreak management plans (COVID-19): Workplaces

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Working safely

While there is no longer a requirement for all employers to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their statutory health and safety risk assessments, it is important that as a business, organisation or an employer you continue to comply with your legal obligations relating to health and safety, employment and equality duties. Working safely should still be a priority. [Reducing the spread of respiratory infection including COVID-19, in the workplace - GOV.UK](#) guidance covers how to reduce the risk of respiratory infections including COVID-19 spreading in your workplace. Businesses and workplaces should also follow the advice in the guidance below:

- [Ventilation](#)
- [Living with COVID-19](#)
- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)
- [London Business Hub](#)
- [HSE Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Advice for workplaces](#)

Please note: The national guidance continues to be updated so please refer to the guidance via the links provided where it will take you to the most up to date advice.

Workplace Vaccination Offer

Workplaces may be contacted by RBK Regulatory services regarding on-site vaccination pop up opportunities. Workplaces can also email covid-19ph@kingston.gov.uk if they would like a vaccination discussion visit. For more information about vaccinations in Kingston, please review the following:

Kingston Vaccination webpages: <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/vaccine>

SW London CCG vaccination webpages: <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/>

SWL COVID-19 vaccination advice line 0203 880 0338 for anyone who is hesitant about having COVID-19 vaccination

LCRC- COVID-19 outbreak in workplaces

LCRC will only offer guidance when contacted regarding a COVID-19 outbreak affecting a workplace relating to critical national infrastructure (CNI) where services have been severely impacted. These include settings related to Chemicals, Civil Nuclear, Communications, Defence, Emergency Services, Energy, Food supply chain, Government, Transport, Water and Waste. For general COVID-19 guidance, workplaces are advised to follow the guidance outlined in the earlier links.

LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Cell):

Email: lcrc@phe.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.00pm, Sunday CLOSED

Appendix 1: Living with COVID-19: Communications & Engagement Strategy, (May 2022)

Background

With effect from 1 April 2022, the Government's "**Reducing the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, in the workplace**" [guidance](#) sets out public health principles to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus and other respiratory diseases in work settings.

We have moved from a situation in which our behaviour around COVID-19 is heavily regulated, to one in which we are instead all encouraged to take greater personal responsibility for keeping ourselves and one another protected as we learn to live safely with COVID-19. Prior to the COVID-19 restrictions, if we became unwell, we all had to consider not only how we managed our own health needs, but also how this impacted upon our colleagues and residents. We have to take a similar approach again now, recognising that whilst COVID-19 is a significant concern, it is not the only illness which can be spread easily in our communities.

Though contact tracing through NHS Test and Trace and Kingston's local contact tracing team, and universal free testing have been stood down with the lifting of all remaining

COVID-19 restrictions in England, driving uptake of remaining primary course and Booster doses of the vaccine, along with the Spring Booster 2022 for eligible groups remains central to our efforts to live safely with the virus. We continue to work in close partnership with NHS colleagues to increase vaccination rates across the borough, particularly among younger people, our underserved communities, and in those areas where health inequalities are greatest.

This plan sets out how we will raise awareness and understanding of the key public health messages around prevention, symptoms, testing (where applicable) and self-isolation. It also refers to how we will continue to work closely with the NHS to build confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine and encourage uptake. There is a separate but linked plan for vaccine rollout.

This is an iterative document that sets out the broad framework for communications and engagement in this phase of learning to live safely with COVID-19 without government restrictions. We are working in a changing environment as more is learnt about the evolution of the virus. As such, we need to be flexible and responsive as the situation changes over time.

Communications and engagement objectives

Overall aim

- To minimise the spread of COVID-19 to prevent people from experiencing the most severe effects of the virus, and continue to drive uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Objectives

- Deliver simple and effective communications to limit the spread of COVID-19 and ensure all of our diverse communities are informed, safe, reassured and engaged to play their part in controlling the virus and ensure all of our diverse communities are informed, safe, reassured and engaged to play their part in controlling the virus.
- Continue to work with NHS communications colleagues to build confidence in and encourage uptake of all relevant doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, among our own staff and across the whole community, particularly young people and under-served groups - see linked plan.
- Develop and deliver communications and engagement in a collaborative way with our Public Health team, local partners, other London boroughs and the lead agency in the event of any local outbreak (PHE, NHS or RBK depending on setting).
- Prevent confusion and misinformation with quick, clear and accessible communications and engagement.

Target audiences

- All residents - particularly those in our under-served and diverse communities
- Young people
- Vulnerable and protected groups
- Voluntary and community sector organisations
- Community and faith leaders
- Businesses – from small businesses to large organisations
- Parents and carers
- Early years settings, schools, universities

- Staff in high-risk settings – e.g. care homes
- Media – including media aimed at specific communities
- Council staff/contractors/partners
- Elected Members

Key messages

Overarching (*Please note: these may be adapted as the situation changes and we respond to new challenges posed by the virus.)

- COVID-19 has not gone away. We all have to now take personal responsibility in stopping the spread of the virus and protecting our family and friends - particularly those who are most vulnerable to the severest impacts of the disease.
- You can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by taking some simple actions: - -
Wash your hands regularly
- Wear a face covering in crowded places and on public transport
- Ventilation - meet outside, or open windows and doors for indoor visitors
- If you think you have symptoms, stay at home until symptoms have subsided, any high temperature has normalised, and you feel well again
- Ensure you stay up to date with your personal coronavirus vaccines schedule
- If you have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or any other respiratory illness, please stay at home, and avoid contact with others (especially those most susceptible to the more serious effects of the virus) until you are well again.
 - Many people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, and it is not always possible to know whether people we meet may be more vulnerable to the severest effects of the virus, so please exercise judgement and personal responsibility when mixing.

Specific messaging (technical/background info for specific audiences)

Specific messaging will be developed as needed to address specific challenges or issues.

Example messaging includes:

Symptoms? Stay at home

- If you have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or any other respiratory illness, please stay at home, and avoid contact with others (especially those most susceptible to the more serious effects of the virus) until you are well again.

Strategy

To minimise further transmission, we will continue to support all of our residents, communities and businesses to understand and trust in the public health advice.

We will continue to share timely, accurate and reliable information across our channels, and through our trusted community voices.

By continuing to develop messages and an overarching narrative, we can build on the work of the past 2 years to continue to support everyone in the borough to feel safe and reassured to continue to take individual personal responsibility in minimising the spread of the virus, in order to live more safely with COVID-19 while it remains in circulation. Communicating the same consistent messaging - and a single point of truth - across the borough will also avoid

confusion among our communities and reinforce the role that simple, safe and conscientious behaviours play in keeping our communities safe.

Activity continues to focus on delivering key public health messaging guidance, information and advice through our established channels as well as through trusted community spokespeople. We continually expand and partner with these community influencers to help us deliver key messages through their own networks as well as disseminating their messages through council and partner channels. Written, video and audio messages are, and will continue to be translated into community languages.

We will continue our targeted work with community groups, including through our Vaccinations Community Champions programme, to empower them to deliver public health information to the communities they work with in the most effective ways, as they know their communities best. We will also continue to listen to and learn from these groups to understand the main barriers that we need to address and use this insight to inform our communications and engagement, and to further facilitate them in delivering their planned activities.

We will continue work with local partners including those in the voluntary and community sector, NHS, Kingston University, the Police, London Ambulance, the business community and others through the Health Protection Forum, Strategic Coordination Group, South West London CCG, to disseminate local messaging and encourage residents to play their part in containing the virus.

We will continue our work with London Councils to support the continuing development of any further London specific messaging as needed - Keep London Safe - with assets localised for use in Kingston.

Local outbreak control

In the event of any future local outbreaks, will work closely with the organisation affected through a local outbreak control meeting. If needed, we will support them to communicate quickly and effectively with people at risk of catching the virus with advice about what they need to do, including any testing arrangements relevant to the given setting. This will be key to preventing further spread of infection. If needed, we will work closely with stakeholders to develop reactive communications, including press statements, to allay community concerns and prevent the spread of misinformation.

Hotspots

We will continue our close working with Public Health and Data colleagues to identify any areas where cases are particularly high. When areas are identified, and where we feel the potential risk is sufficiently high, we will work with the neighbourhood rangers and regulatory services colleagues to develop and deliver targeted communications to households and businesses to raise awareness of the high rates and encourage uptake of local prevention and testing offers.

COVID-19 vaccines

We continue to work very closely with the NHS to build confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine and encourage uptake, particularly amongst underserved groups and those groups facing the greatest health inequalities.

Engagement

The Community Development Team will continue to work with specific voluntary sector groups that it has been working with during the past 2 years on targeted COVID-19

communications engagement (through Grant Rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4 Test and Trace/CONTAIN/DLUHC funding and targeted commissioned services). This will be undertaken through:

- Regular engagement via reducing health inequalities workstreams included in the Health Improvement and Social Inclusion Plan 2019/2023)
- Future and existing commissioned services working on reducing health inequalities including an element of promoting timely communications when required to socially excluded groups
- A requirement within the Community Grants Programme on how activities funded under the scheme demonstrate maintaining resilience post COVID-19

Appendix 2: Terms of Reference for Governance Groups

Kingston Strategic Partnership

As the Council, we are a key member of the Kingston Strategic Partnership (KSP). KSP consists of partners from the statutory, voluntary and business sectors. Its purpose is to set the overall vision and direction for partnership working in Kingston.

KSP members

- Community Brain
- Groundwork London
- Kingston Chamber of Commerce
- Kingstonfirst
- Kingston Race and Equalities Council
- Kingston Voluntary Action
- Your Healthcare CIC
- Staywell
- Department of Work and Pensions
- GP Representative
- Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Kingston University
- London Fire Brigade
- Metropolitan Police
- Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Council
- South West London ICS
- South Thames Colleges Group

South London Partnership

We're part of the South London Partnership, which is a collaboration of five London boroughs:

- The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
- Croydon
- Merton
- Richmond upon Thames
- Sutton

We'll work with Government, the Mayor of London, other local authorities, public sector bodies, business and communities to focus on three goals:

- shaping sustainable growth
- securing devolution to unlock opportunities
- driving efficiency

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

To continue to build on collaborative and partnership working, strengthened over the last 2 years with the Kingston COVID-19 pandemic response, in other areas of Health Protection for Kingston. To ensure that there are safe and effective arrangements and plans in place to protect the health of the local population.

The scope of Health Protection to be considered will include:

- Prevention and control of infectious diseases
- Immunisation programmes - inc. childhood, schools, flu, COVID-19,
- Screening programmes - breast, cervical, antenatal and newborn
- Outbreak planning and response
- Prevention and Management of environmental hazards
- Local Outbreak Management Plan (COVID-19) review and sign off and other responsibilities as set out in the Pan

Functions:

1. To provide a forum for discussion with local partners of Health Protection risks and mitigations and opportunities for joint working
2. To share any local Health Protection issues/concerns which may affect the health of the local population
3. To provide oversight of key Health Protection issues and review Health Protection plans including the COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan
4. To share local surveillance data for infectious diseases and immunisation and screening uptake data that may inform planning
5. To discuss significant incidents and outbreaks, consider lessons learned, best practice and recommendations, and encourage implementation of any findings

Proposed Governance Arrangements:

Chair and Membership

The Director of Public Health or her representative will chair the forum.

Core membership will be as listed below:

- Director of Public Health - Kingston Council

- Consultant in Public Health - Kingston Council
- Health Protection Officer - Kingston Council
- Kingston Outbreak Control Officer
- Kingston Council Adult Social Care representative
- Resilience and Planning Manager
- Public Health - Kingston Council
- Environmental Health - Kingston Council
- Communications and Engagement Lead - Kingston Council
- Senior Community Development Coordinator for Marginalised Groups - Kingston Council
- Achieving for Children representative
- Health Protection Consultant UKHSA SWL HPT
- Screening lead - NHSE
- Immunisation Lead NHS SWL CCG
- SWL CCG Infection Prevention Control Specialist
- Your Healthcare representative
- University?
- Hospital?

Frequency of meetings:

The Forum will meet once a month with an increase in meeting frequency as and when required and agreed with members.

Format of meetings:

There will be a standard Forum agenda to include:

- Local data update including COVID-19
- UKHSA SWL HPT - Health Protection update
- NHS SWL CCG - immunisation update (flu, COVID-19, childhood, schools, older people, pregnancy)
- NHSE - Screening update (breast, cervical, bowel and other relevant programmes, antenatal and newborn)
- SWL CCG IPC - update
- Updates on infectious and non-infectious environmental concerns as necessary - new and emerging infections, air quality, heat/cold

Secretariat:

Kingston Public Health (Health Protection Officer) will arrange meetings, minutes, draft agendas

Review of the Terms of reference will be on an annual basis.

Terms of reference **March 2019**

1. Objective:

To promote an integrated and co-ordinated approach to contingency planning and emergency management throughout the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

2. Scope

The Royal Borough Kingston Borough Resilience Forum (RBK BRF) shall be responsible for the following activities:

- a. Produce a yearly work plan, borough based risk register and joint multi agency exercise.
- b. Ensure there is co-operation and understanding between relevant organisations and agencies throughout the Royal Borough when responding to emergencies and disruptions.
- c. Ensuring local arrangements are in place to deliver or facilitate the actions outlined in regional or national planning.
- d. To develop joint training and exercising amongst members of the Forum in all areas relating to contingency planning and emergency management.
- e. Local Governance – Safer Kingston Partnership (SKP): Attend meetings to report progress of annual work plan, Borough Risk Register and multi-agency plans, and seek sign off by SKP.
- f. Pan – London Governance – Report to the London Resilience Forum (LRF) via the reporting process co-ordinated by the London Resilience Group and other government bodies as required. Attend LRF as required, participate and develop pan-London arrangements and raise BRF requests and actions to LRF.
- g. A forum to cover the responsibilities of a multi-agency Influenza Pandemic Committee during the planning stages.
- h. To provide a multi-agency forum to develop and review required multi-agency emergency plans and arrangements.

3. Membership

The membership of the RBK BRF is open to all category 1 & 2 responders and strategic partners working within Kingston, these are detailed below:

Category 1 Responders

- Royal Borough of Kingston (including Achieving for Children)

- Metropolitan Police Service
- London Fire Brigade
- London Ambulance Service
- Kingston Hospital
- NHS England
- Public Health England
- Environment Agency
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency (HMCG London)
- RNLI
- Your Health Care

Category 2 Responders

- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Utilities Companies
- All Category 2 organisations (Voluntary Sector)

Other partner organisations

- Kingston University
- Kingston First - Town Centre Management (Business representative)
- Kingston Citizens Advice
- London District, MOD.
- Surrey County Council
- Other organisations as identified by the Core Membership

Chairperson

The chair of the BRF will be agreed between the category 1 responders and shall be responsible for the following:

- Arrange meetings & venues
- Produce minutes, agenda's and invites to third parties to attend RBK BRF
- Lead on the consultation, completions and production of annual work plan, borough risk register and joint multi agency exercise.
- Represent the RBK BRF at each meeting of the Safer Kingston Partnership, SRRF and when invited to the LRRF. Attend any other meetings which require the attendance of the RBK BRF.
- The chair will give an update on any meeting attended on behalf of RBK BRF and relay any requests or issue raised after consultation with the RBK BRF.

The Local Authority will act as nominated chair, until the BRF agree a change in chairperson.

Deputy Chairperson (Two)

The deputy chairperson/s will be agreed by the category 1 & 2 responders and shall be responsible for the following:

- In the absence of the chairperson, chair BRF meetings.
- Attend external meetings on behalf of Kingston BRF, including London LRF meetings

- Lead one BRF work stream: Training & Exercising, Risk Register or Multi agency Plans
- If appropriate (dependent upon incident impact) chair and co-ordinate borough multi-agency response during prolonged emergency incidents.

Membership Quorum

A minimum of four category one responders must be present at any meeting to make its decisions valid.

Decision Making and Voting Rights

Only category one responders will have decision making or voting rights for the annual work plan, borough risk register and annual joint exercise.

Category 2 responders and partners will be consulted and their views considered in any decision making process.

In the event of a joint or split decision the chair will have the casting vote.

4. Governance

Local – The BRF will report directly to the Safer Kingston Partnership as its governing body, who will sign off its work plan, borough risk register and any other outcomes it produces.

Pan London – The BRF will also provide regular reports to the London LRF on local incidents, multi-agency plan arrangements and comment upon requests or instructions passed to it from LRG.

If requested a representative (Chair or category 1 responder) will attend the London LRF or any special resilience forum held by a government department or section.

5. Meeting Arrangements

The BRF shall meet approximately once every three (or four) calendar months, or more frequently where the work plan requires it.

Each meeting shall have a structured agenda circulated in advance, which members should discuss with the groups/organisations they are mandated to represent prior to representing the collective view at the meeting.

6. Review

These terms of reference shall be discussed and reviewed on an annual basis or as soon as possible if emergency incidents have prohibited BRF meetings from taking place.

Appendix 3: How we got here - brief summary of key events from Local Outbreak Control and Management Plans V1-7.2

This will be added shortly

Appendix 4: Learning from 2020-2022

This will be added on completion of surveys