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#### Targeted Community Testing Programme (TCTP) – Reaching Underserved Communities

A plan to support targeting provision of LFTs has been developed to inform the overall strategy and operational model, informed by national and local qualitative and quantitative intelligence. This targeted programme now constitutes the main focus of the local authority testing programme and has involved the identification of priority cohorts in order to ensure that efforts are focused on reaching individuals or groups that are underrepresented or disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The plan includes setting up additional collection points in locations such as Children’s Centres, Homeless Hostels, Sexual Health and Vaccination Clinics as well as Day Care settings to engage those with lower levels of testing uptake and/or those more vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19. Engagement officers and volunteers have been trained to be able to engage target populations in discussions about why regular symptom free testing is important, deliver key messages, and provide top tips on undertaking a home test well. They act as ambassadors for symptom free testing and are able to engage their own communities in symptom-free testing, in a way that is meaningful to those residents. Joint work is also being undertaken with other projects within the Local Outbreak Management Plan to ensure joint targeting of interventions and messaging, such as joint pop-up vaccination and symptom-free testing offers in target communities and settings.

As Local Authorities currently receive limited data on who is participating in symptom-free testing, SCC is currently using a combination of methods to better understand which groups and communities are not engaging with symptom-free testing. This includes utilising data from PowerBI and Southampton Test and Trace, utilising data on low vaccine uptake where we think the same groups will have low testing uptake, local resident surveys, asking those that test on site what their occupation is, information from national pilots, and qualitative feedback through community meetings and direct from residents.

**Figure 9: Summary of the main testing offers available in Southampton:**

Test	What type of test is this?	Who is it for?	How do I book?
Standard PCR test	The PCR test is the <b>ONLY</b> Covid-19 test for people with symptoms	<p>People of any age with any of the following symptoms;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a high temperature, and/or;</li> <li>• a new, continuous cough and/or;</li> <li>• a sudden loss or change to your sense of taste or smell.</li> </ul> <p>PCR testing is also for people who have been identified by Test and Trace as a close contact of someone who is positive for COVID, but are not legally required to self-isolate by the criteria outlined above.</p>	Book a test or order a test online at gov.uk, or call 119 if you do not have internet access, as soon as you develop any symptoms of Covid-19.
Symptom free testing	<p>This is a quick turnaround test using a lateral flow test (LFT) for people without symptoms to find otherwise undetected cases.</p> <p>1 in 3 people with COVID-19 infection do not have any symptoms and so may be spreading the virus unknowingly.</p>	<p>Everyone is encouraged to do free testing twice a week. Conducting the test twice a week gives the best chance of the LFT detecting any COVID-19 infection.</p> <p>Additional offers are established for target communities and settings</p>	<p>Collect home test kits from a local test site, or book a rapid symptom free test <a href="http://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/covid-testing/symptom-free-booking">www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/covid-testing/symptom-free-booking</a></p> <p>Or see <a href="https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/">https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/</a></p>
Workplace testing	This is a quick turnaround test using a lateral flow test (LFT) for people without symptoms to find otherwise undetected cases. sites.	Businesses are strongly encouraged to set up a workplace testing scheme.	<p>Your employer will give you details of their own workplace testing scheme. If a workplace offer is not in place, you can book or collect a rapid symptom free test from one of Southampton's community sites: <a href="http://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/covid-testing/symptom-free-booking">www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/covid-testing/symptom-free-booking</a></p>
School testing	<p>This is a quick turnaround test using a lateral flow test (LFT) for people without symptoms to find otherwise undetected cases</p> <p>Some secondary schools and sixth form Colleges in Southampton are participating in saliva LAMP testing to detect COVID-19 infection in people with no symptoms, as part of the DHSC funded Hiow programme.</p>	Staff at all nurseries, schools and colleges and secondary school and college students.	Staff and students will receive their test kits at their school or setting

Further information about *symptomatic testing* can be found here on the Council's website:  
<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/covid-testing/getting-tested.aspx>

Further information about *symptom-free* testing can be found here:  
<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/covid-testing/symptom-free-testing.aspx>

## **Local Contact Tracing Service: Southampton Test and Trace**

Contact tracing has been identified as a way of monitoring the spread of COVID-19 infection and trying to manage the onward transmission of coronavirus. The national Test and Trace service has been operational since May 2020. The testing arm of this service aims to provide rapid access to a test for anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19, whilst the tracing arm aims to identify 'close contacts' of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus and, if necessary, notifies them that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus unless exempt.

For a test and trace system to be effective, SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies) has advised that at least 80% of contacts of an index case need to be contacted and that 80% of contacts would need to isolate.

Southampton City Council, is supporting the National Test and Trace service with the operation of a local contact tracing service, called *Southampton Test and Trace*. The primary aim of Southampton Test and Trace is to increase the proportion of Southampton residents that are successfully contacted where they have tested positive for COVID-19, to advise that they and their close contacts (subject to the current isolation rules) self-isolate, and ensure that residents are aware of the support they can access to enable them to self-isolate where this is needed.

The operational model for Southampton Test and Trace (outlined in figure 10 below) is for the National Test and Trace service to "pass on" residents that had tested positive for COVID-19 to *Southampton Test and Trace* where the national team had been unable to contact the resident within 24 - 28 hours. Southampton call tracers then seek to make contact with residents for up to a further 72 hours, by phone, email and text, asking them to self-isolate and identifying their "close contacts" so that they can in turn be advised to self-isolate unless exempt by the National Test and Trace team. If after multiple failed contact attempts the case is uncontactable, an assessment is made as to whether to deploy a local Community Engagement Officer or not to visit the resident's home to try and make contact on the

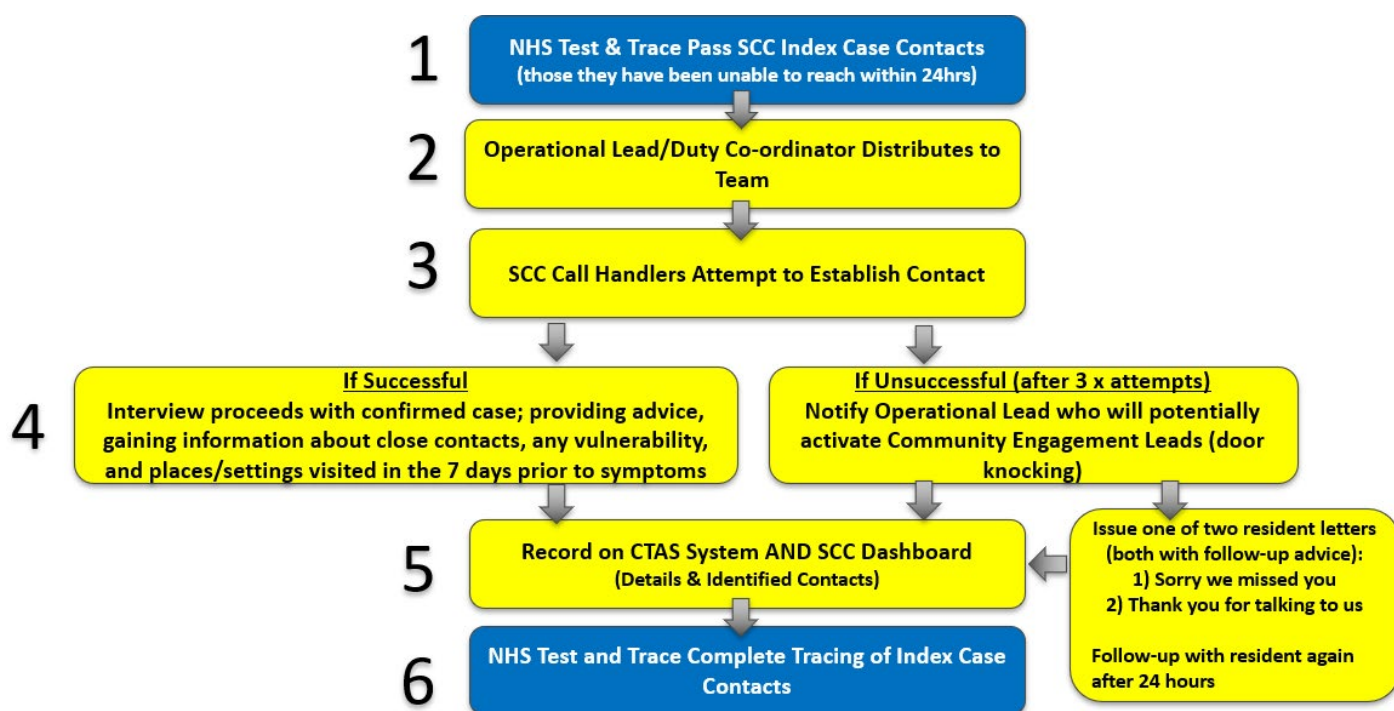
doorstep. Priority for Community Engagement is given to the elderly, those identified as vulnerable and children where the parent/guardian has not been responded to contact attempts. Follow up attempts to contact residents that have been visited will also be made.

In addition to preventing the spread of COVID-19 infection in the City, *Southampton Test and Trace* aims to protect vulnerable residents by identifying individuals and families that require support to self-isolate and/or are vulnerable. Importantly, by having direct contact with residents affected we can offer support and extra help as appropriate to individuals and families in need, including: access to emergency resources, food, medicines, social support and the promotion of the self-isolation funding that is available for lower paid, working residents on benefits. We can also advise cases that are in need of medical support (i.e. physical or mental health need) to contact their GP services or 111. In some circumstances the Senior Health Protection and Infection Prevention Nurse can be asked to engage with cases directly.

The advantages of locally supported contact tracing are manifold, including: a higher potential for cases with incorrect or incomplete contact details to be traced using locally held contact details and a higher likelihood of cases responding due to the use of a local telephone number and call-back facilities. Tailored local media communications and advice from local medical professionals can also result in greater awareness and engagement with self-isolation guidance. Local contact tracing services have been successfully trialled in other local authorities with good results. Nearly all Local Authorities in England have now set up their own local contact tracing services.

Links have been established with the two Universities in the city to assist us in reaching students (especially international students) who we are unable to reach easily.

Regional and local contacts in other local authorities have been established to share weekly good practise meetings and discuss common themes and responses. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) also attend regional meetings and are available to provide advice. They are also receptive to suggestions for improvements.



**Figure 10: Southampton Test and Trace Service Operating Model**

Further information about *Southampton Test and Trace* can be found here on the Council’s website: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-COVID-1919/COVID-19-testing/southampton-test-trace.aspx>

*Development of the local tracing offer*

From the week beginning 15 March, SCC developed the local tracing offer beyond the core local tracing partnership by joining the ‘pilot project for contacting non-contactable contacts’ in Southampton. This pilot scheme gives LA’s the opportunity to try and contact the close contacts of index cases who are hard to reach, such as those without personal details and whom the National Test and Trace team have no chance of reaching. By SCC taking on these cases, we can use local systems to try and track down these contacts and advise them to self-isolate unless exempt. It is hypothesised that local tracing teams will also be able to reach a proportion of contacts who cannot be reached nationally, for follow up support. This will increase the overall number of contacts receiving isolation follow-up support calls in the region.



## Section 10 Self-Isolation

It remains critical to encourage people who have symptoms to self-isolate immediately and get tested with a PCR test as quickly as possible. This still applies even if you have received one or more doses of MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Since August 16th 2021, the approach to close-contacts of cases who are fully vaccinated or under 18, has shifted. These individuals no longer need to self-isolate unless, or until, they become symptomatic and includes close-contact of [household](#) or [non-household](#) cases. They will be asked to take a PCR test. In addition to these changes, Daily Contact Testing (DCT) using LFD's as an alternative to self-isolation is also expected to be used more widely. If you have only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, you will still be required to self-isolate.

### **Isolation for those testing positive for Covid-19**

All individuals who test positive for COVID-19, including the double vaccinated and children, should self-isolate immediately for 10 days from when symptoms began (day zero) or from the date a test (day zero) when someone has no symptoms.

### **Isolation for those contacted by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app.**

It is a legal requirement to self-isolate if you are told to by NHS Test and Trace. You could be fined if you do not self-isolate. Individuals should self-isolate and get a PCR test.

If you are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app you should:

1. Self-isolate immediately
2. Do not leave your home for any reason – if you need food or medicine, order it online or by phone, or ask friends and family to drop it off at your home
3. Do not have visitors in your home, including friends and family – except for essential care
4. Try to avoid contact with anyone you live with as much as possible
5. Keep your home well ventilated

### **Exemption from Self-isolation**

Double vaccinated and all children (under 18 years and 6 months old) identified as a close-contact by NHS test and trace, will be advised to take a PCR test and only need to self-isolate



if they test positive. They do not need to isolate whilst awaiting their test or test result. Where contacts are over 18 and not fully vaccinated, they are legally required to self-isolate unless they are taking part in an approved daily contact testing scheme.

### **Port/Border Quarantine**

The cruise industry has resumed travel within UK waters and will soon be restarting international travel. In order to understand the impact of passengers returning to travel within enclosed spaces (ships), the UK Government's Traffic Light System and associated isolation/testing requirements, Southampton City Council along with partner agencies such as United Kingdom Health Security Agency conducted a table top exercise in June 2021 to explore partnership working the response to outbreak onboard vessel. Southampton has a well established response structure for responding to incidents and outbreaks onboard; starting with the submission of the Medical Declaration of Health (MDH) form by the Ships Agent to Port Health for assessment and where necessary activation of the Incident Management Team (IMT) with partners for shared situational awareness and action.

The response to positive covid-19 cases onboard is complex; multiple ships agents each with their own protocols and procedures in line with their country's regulations (often differing from the UK regulations), crews originating from different ports, passengers coming from or going to anywhere in the UK, challenges with hotel availability to support passenger/crew isolation requirements where required for positive cases and rapidly changing UK regulations. Southampton City Council Port Health and Public Health teams will work closely with the cruise industry to respond to outbreaks onboard and make recommendations on appropriate and proportionate actions in line with UK regulations.

### **Managed Quarantine Facilities**

The rules governing travel to and from the UK are regularly changing in line with movement in the Governments Traffic Light System, however the rules regarding travel from/through a Red listed country remain the same. Travellers are arriving into the UK who have come from or travelled through a red listed country are required to stay in a government run Managed Quarantine Facility (MQF), in isolation, for a full 10 days from the point of arrival, this is to ensure there is no spread of infection from a new or mutated version of the Covid-19 virus.

Currently there are no plans to establish an MQF in the city. The designation and activation of an MQF is between the Department of Health and Social Care and the hotel facility with

engagement from local partners in supporting the wrap around care provided to guests by DHSC for the duration of their stay.

Southampton City Council, with partner agencies including neighbouring local authorities, emergency services and the health sector, have a well-established process for a response to the establishment of an MQF in the area. This has been tested in a multi-agency exercise and identified lessons incorporated into the planning and discussed at the Pan-Hampshire Health Protection Collaborative Forum. A Command and Control structure, with supporting arrangements, has been agreed and key partners have been briefed on their roles and responsibilities through the Health Protection Board.

### **Support for self-isolation**

The authority has in place a support network of volunteer organisations to provide practical support such as:

- a) emergency food provision either through a one-off food parcel or a referral to a food bank
- b) undertaking shopping (though the recipient will still be obliged to pay)
- c) Collection of prescriptions or medication
- d) Support for those living alone such as a person to call and speak to them

The self-isolation grant of £500 is processed through the authority Revenue and Benefits team in line with the Treasury requirements for assessment and eligibility for the payment.

In addition, a case can be referred to the children or adult support services that the authority offers in its normal support to the community.

## Section 11

### Data Integration and Intelligence

#### Use of data to inform prevention and outbreak management actions

Data and intelligence is crucial in informing strategic and operational decisions on how best to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, maintain public confidence and engagement with public health measures (see section 3), and inform the identification and proactive management of local outbreaks. Data is currently being utilised in a range of ways, and including to:

- Identify epidemiological patterns across the city to refine understanding of high-risk places, locations and communities.
- Inform communications, community engagement, and compliance activities.
- Identify complex outbreaks so that appropriate action can be taken, and including whether an Outbreak Management Team (OMT) needs to be convened.
- Support quality and performance reporting for operational and strategic purposes.

Southampton City Council receives the following data and reports:

#### Daily reports from UKHSA

- Daily contact tracing update
- Exceedance reports for pillar 1 and 2 combined
- Situational awareness – national report
- UKHSA Power BI COVID-19 Situational Awareness Explorer Portal
- COVID 19 Epidemiology
- Outbreaks, Clusters and Settings
- Postcode level testing data (pillar 1 and 2 positive tests, cases, negatives and voids)
- Common Exposures
- Local Contact Tracing data
- Vaccine data
- Variant data
- NHS Test & Trace QR Venue App data

#### Daily Reports from NIMS/Foundry

- Vaccine Data

















## Section 13 Future Planning

The Southampton COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan needs to evolve as the COVID-19 pandemic and our response to it evolves and we continue to adapt to living with COVID-19. It will change as new developments and infra-structure is put into place and in response to our learning and as the evidence develops. Therefore, this plan is a living document, enabling our response to be agile and respond to change in guidance, policy and legislation as well as to changes in infection levels and impact. We will continue to review and update this plan, in collaboration with our partners.

The next iteration of the plan is expected to review the themes below, which are currently emerging, developing or changing:

- Ensure our response reflects Southampton's needs, priorities, public perception, behaviours and changes in epidemiology as society continues to open up.
- Responding to Variants of Concern (VOC) / Variants under Investigation (VUI).
- Action on enduring transmission – further work to understand any pockets of concerns within the city and target action appropriately.
- Testing and Contact Tracing – this is rapidly evolving area, and we will update the plan to reflect this.
- Ongoing role of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)
- Activities to enable 'living with COVID' (COVID secure), with a continued focus on communications and community engagement targeting to those communities and settings where insights and data suggest transmission is enduring.
- Vaccine's roll-out – continued work to ensure the roll out of the vaccination programme targets specific communities and those in higher risk environments.
- Ongoing review in light of local behavioural insight and intelligence
- A continued focus on reducing health inequalities
- Considering recovery and opportunities to [Build Back Fairer](#) in response to COVID-19.
- A review of Governance arrangements as the pandemic and our response to it evolves, including the future role of the Covid-19 Health Protection Board and Outbreak Engagement Board