

Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan

Week commencing 07 September 2020



Context

- Covid-19 is with us for the foreseeable future
- Range of potential scenarios

Best case:

Low level of transmission with outbreaks limited to discrete settings – e.g. care homes, schools, businesses, households, defined small communities

Middle case:

Community spread in particular areas of the country – requiring some local restrictions

Worst case:

Extended community spread across the country - requiring a 'national lockdown'

- Main determinant will be public compliance with good hygiene, social distancing and self-isolation of cases and contacts
- Local authorities have a new and important role in developing and implementing Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plans

Staffordshire Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Outbreak-control/Outbreak-control-plan.aspx>

1. Surveillance
2. Identification of outbreaks
3. Response
4. Management of outbreaks
5. Governance
6. Communications
7. Alert levels and additional restrictions

Surveillance and identification of outbreaks

Testing:

- Local swabbing team and laboratories (Pillar 1)
- National network of Regional Testing Centre / Mobile Testing Units and Local Testing Centres use national laboratories (Pillar 2)

Results:

- Data quality is improving although there remain delays in getting test results
- Used to construct a local surveillance using dashboard

Other intelligence:

- Regular dialogue between Staffordshire and PHE
- Contact between Staffordshire and neighbouring local authorities
- Local communities including elected members are an important source of intelligence

Response and management of outbreaks

- **Response** to outbreaks draws on existing skills and experience with teams from County Council and District and Borough Councils leading management of Incidents in different settings
- **Management** might include:
 - Isolation and cohorting of cases
 - 'Deep cleaning'
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Support for business continuity, including management and staffing, in essential Council provided or commissioned services
 - Contact tracing
 - Increased testing
 - Support for self-isolation
 - Closure of settings
 - Enforcement

Governance and communications

Governance:

- Covid-19 Health Protection Board meets three times a week
- Covid-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board to provide democratic oversight and lead communications with the public
- Multi-agency co-ordination through Local Resilience Forum

Communication:

- We are unlikely to tell Members about every Incident
- We will tell Members about Incidents that are likely to be particularly sensitive
- We will make sure there is a point of contact for enquiries

National Contain Framework

The Contain Framework categorises UTLA into four 'alert levels':

'Stable' areas. Expected to be most UTLA

Areas of concern. In areas where there is some community spread and the number of cases is rising the expectation is that UTLA will work with partners, supported by regional PHE and NHS Test and Trace, to take additional actions. Actions may include: enhanced communications around the importance of hygiene, social distancing, and other preventative measures; additional targeted testing; and more detailed epidemiological work to understand the spread of infection. They may also include additional restrictions with the UTLA using new powers to close premises, places and events where necessary.

Areas of enhanced support. In areas where there is more extended community spread and the number of cases is higher and/or increasingly rapidly then UTLA will be provided extra national capacity and oversight to support additional actions. Actions may include: detailed engagement with high risk communities and sectors to help increase the effectiveness of testing and tracing; more widespread testing; and further restrictions on premises, places and events, determined locally.

Areas of intervention. In these areas decision-making on the need for more substantial restrictions will be determined nationally. This will be on the basis that one or more of the following criteria are met:

- Local leaders request intervention;
- Management requires resource prioritization by HM government;
- The situation raises issues of national importance - for example impact on critical infrastructure, major parts of the economy or wider sectors such as food or energy production; and/or
- Local capacity and capabilities are exceeded, the local response is ineffective, or the scale of the situation calls for the use of wider or more intrusive powers.

Local alert levels – for use within the county

Local alert level	Situation	Potential restrictions
Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meets criteria for national Contain Framework 'Area of Intervention'	HM government will determine additional restrictions
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of cases in the area is rising further or faster indicating extended community spread of infection	As below plus consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Close schools / nurseriesClose leisure facilitiesClose shopsAdvise indoor/outdoor meetings restricted to a single household
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of cases in the area is rising indicating some community spread of infection beyond discrete settings	Rigorously enforce national guidance Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Limit the number of people in shopsRestrict access to parksLimit organized gatherings to fewer people – including weddings, funerals and religious ceremoniesAdvise indoor/outdoor meetings restricted to fewer people
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of cases low and stableClusters and outbreaks limited to discrete settings such as care homes, schools, businesses or single households	<ul style="list-style-type: none">National guidance applies <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do</p>

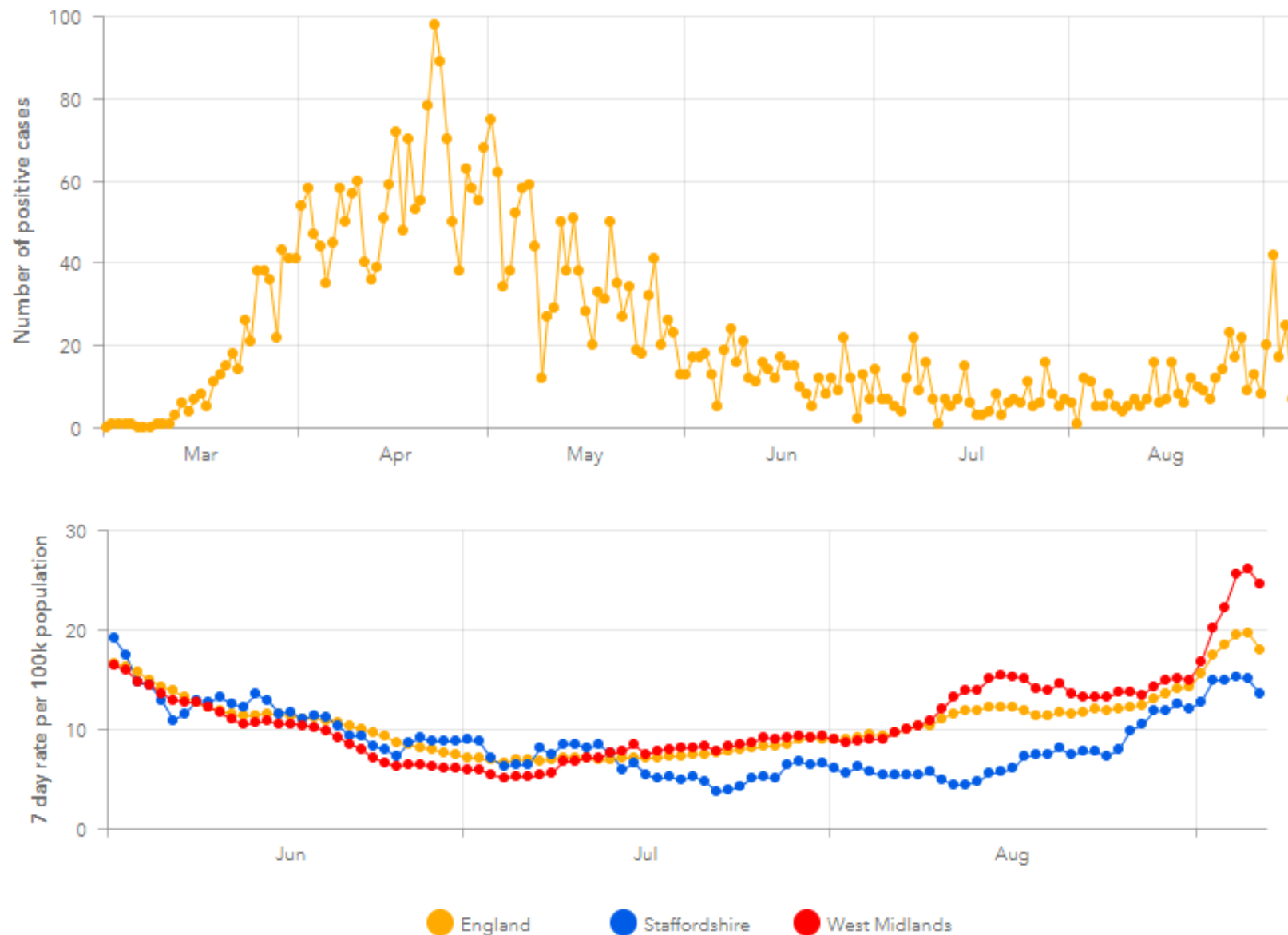
Current situation

Number of new Covid-19 cases in Staffordshire rising in line with national trend – currently around 10-20 new cases daily

Case rate slightly lower than England average

Currently affecting working age adults so not seeing increased numbers of hospitalisations and deaths

The situation can change very quickly



Local epidemiology and significant incidents

- **East Staffordshire:** Ongoing elevated number of cases in Shobnall, Anglesey, Horninglow and Eton Park wards. Additional advice going to residents and businesses.
- **Newcastle:** Recent outbreak associated with Silverdale Working Men's Club and other pubs; 18 confirmed cases so far; incident now closed.
- **Tamworth:** Recent elevation in number of cases; no obvious single common cause; now reducing.
- **Stafford:** Outbreak associated with Barleston cricket club; infections acquired on a 'stag do' in Prague; one domestic transmission.
- **Lichfield:** Small rise in number of cases; no obvious single common cause.
- **South Staffordshire:** Recent cases associated with care homes.
- **Staffordshire Moorlands:** Recent cases associated with care homes and Alton Towers.
- **Cannock:** Nothing of note.

Questions

