

Managing rising COVID-19 infections rates

The Calderdale way

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Action to reduce the infection rate in Calderdale

Preventing cases and outbreaks:

- Clear and consistent messages to the public - communication campaign
- Intensive and targeted engagement with communities in areas of high incidence
- Supporting businesses and employers implement Covid secure working practices

Identifying cases quickly:

- Increasing the amount of testing undertaken in the borough
- Improving access to testing for residents
- Using intelligence to target testing at people in high risk areas, settings and occupation, whether or not they have symptoms

Reducing transmission of the virus:

- Delivering local contact tracing to enhance the national test and trace service
- Providing support to people to enable them to self-isolate
- Enforcing coronavirus restrictions

Contact Tracing

Structure:

- Partnership with others, we are part of NHS Test and Trace
- Contact tracers with range of backgrounds and skills
- Strong back-office

Process:

- Text and contact using local number
- Rapid phone contact
- Door knocking

Outcome:

- 60% contacted within 12 hours
- 80% contacted within 36 hours
- 10% door knocking
- 10% no action
- Supported self-isolation (v. important!)
- Latest data – c90% of cases contacted

Contact Tracing – Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- Managing the data
- Undertaking safe home visits
- Timeliness of data receipt
- Household vs individual
- Multiple positive tests

Opportunities:

- Acting at pace
- Local support for Tier 1
- Support with cluster/outbreak identification and management
- Potential for intelligence led testing support
- Following up all cases and contacts to support self-isolation

Wish list

- Contact Tracing - All fields complete on data shared with local public health teams (e.g. occupation, ethnicity fields, timely information on contacts not completed in levels 2 and 3)
- Contact Tracing – ability to undertake Tier 3 locally (follow cases and contacts through)
- Financial support for local contact tracing
- Flexibility to implement intelligence led testing (asymptomatic people at high risk e.g. care home staff, taxi drivers, shop workers, street based testing)
- Financial support for low paid workers / those without recourse to public funds to enable them to adhere to self isolation guidance
- National policy to require all taxi passengers to wear face coverings