

Appendix H. Staffing Annex

Introduction

Although the incidence of COVID-19 continues to decrease in Birmingham, the easing of restrictions and increases internationally require the council to ensure it has sufficient capacity to manage the current demand as well as having a contingency plan in place in case of future increases locally.

Current Staffing

Within BCC, there are 127 staff within the Public Health Division and 60 staff within our Test and Trace Team.

The Test and Trace team is headed up by an Assistant Director of Public Health alongside three public health consultants each leading one of the four business units.

Director of Public Health			
Public Health Division – other divisions for Wider determinants, Environmental Public Health & Health Protection, and Populations divisions			
Birmingham City Council Public Health Test & Trace Division			
Strategy & Project Management Unit	Health Protection Acute Response	Data & Governance	Engagement & Communication
AD PH (Test & Trace) - Topic lead for justice settings	Consultant in PH - Topic lead for clinical & care settings	Consultant in PH - Topic lead for workplace	Consultant in PH - Topic lead for education settings
8.0 WTE	35.8 WTE	9.0 WTE	7.0 WTE
Leads on overall strategic response, testing strategy, vaccination inequalities, business management.	Outbreak and situation response, contact tracing across 7 days a week.	Data briefings and surveillance, Governance meeting support.	Community engagement and Covid response coms to support testing & outbreak response.

In addition to this core function there are 2.0 WTE matrix communication posts nested within the corporate communications team and additional Environmental Health officer roles within the enforcement team supporting the health protection acute response.

The Test and Trace team have a 7-day rota for health protection response with a single point of contact for contacts for response between 0800-1700, alongside a 7 day rota for public health consultants to sign off on responses and support IMTs where required.

We can surge this at each stage of the action plan with additional pull on public health staff as needed. To support this function, we maintain their skills and competency through monthly training cycle which is described below.

Monthly Covid Response Training Session

A mandatory monthly training cycle has been established with weekly training sessions to ensure all staff grade 4 or above within the public health division keep themselves up to date with the COVID pandemic, particularly how it pertains to Birmingham.

Over the month the sessions will be held on a different day of the week to cater for those working part-time.

Attendance one a month is mandatory and monitored by the Business unit in the test and trace team.

Scope

The training session will provide updates in the following areas:

- Local incidence/prevalence and trends
- Advice regarding prevention and management (for cases and contacts, clusters and outbreaks)
- Contact tracing
- Testing
- Vaccination (local rates, target groups and Q+As about the different vaccines)
- Government policy

Format

40 minute remote presentation with 20 mins for Q+A

Training will be delivered by the T&T consultants and Gr 6 Health protection leads