Implementation of Test & Trace in Birmingham
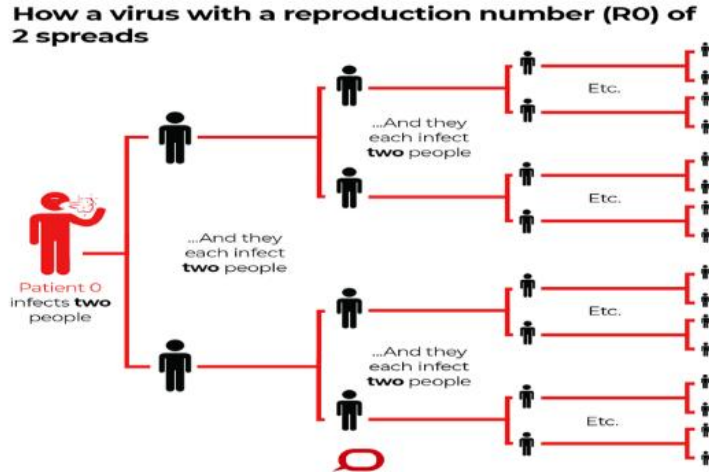# 16/06/2020

Dr Justin Varney

Director of Public Health

Birmingham City Council

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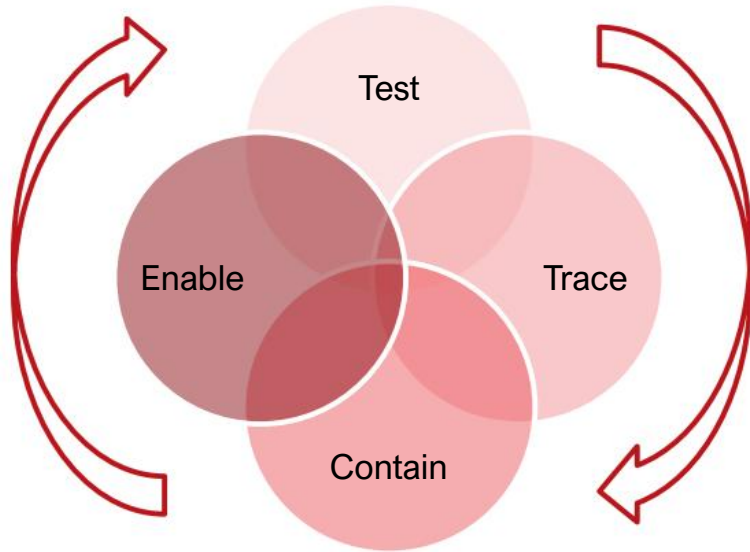
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Phase 2: Test, Trace, Contain, Enable

Test and trace relies on strong communication and engagement with the general public, organisations and partners. The aim is to drive down the reproduction rate and spread of the virus.

How a virus with a reproduction number (R0) of 2 spreads

Patient 0 infects **two** people

...And they each infect **two** people

...And they each infect **two** people

Etc.

National surveillance survey suggests that currently between 0.1% and 20% of the population have been infected by Covid-19 however there is little evidence yet on whether infection generates immunity and if immunity lasts for any duration or impacts on transmission of the virus.

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Test & Trace Emerging National Model

Test
Rapid testing, at scale, to control the virus and identify its spread

Trace
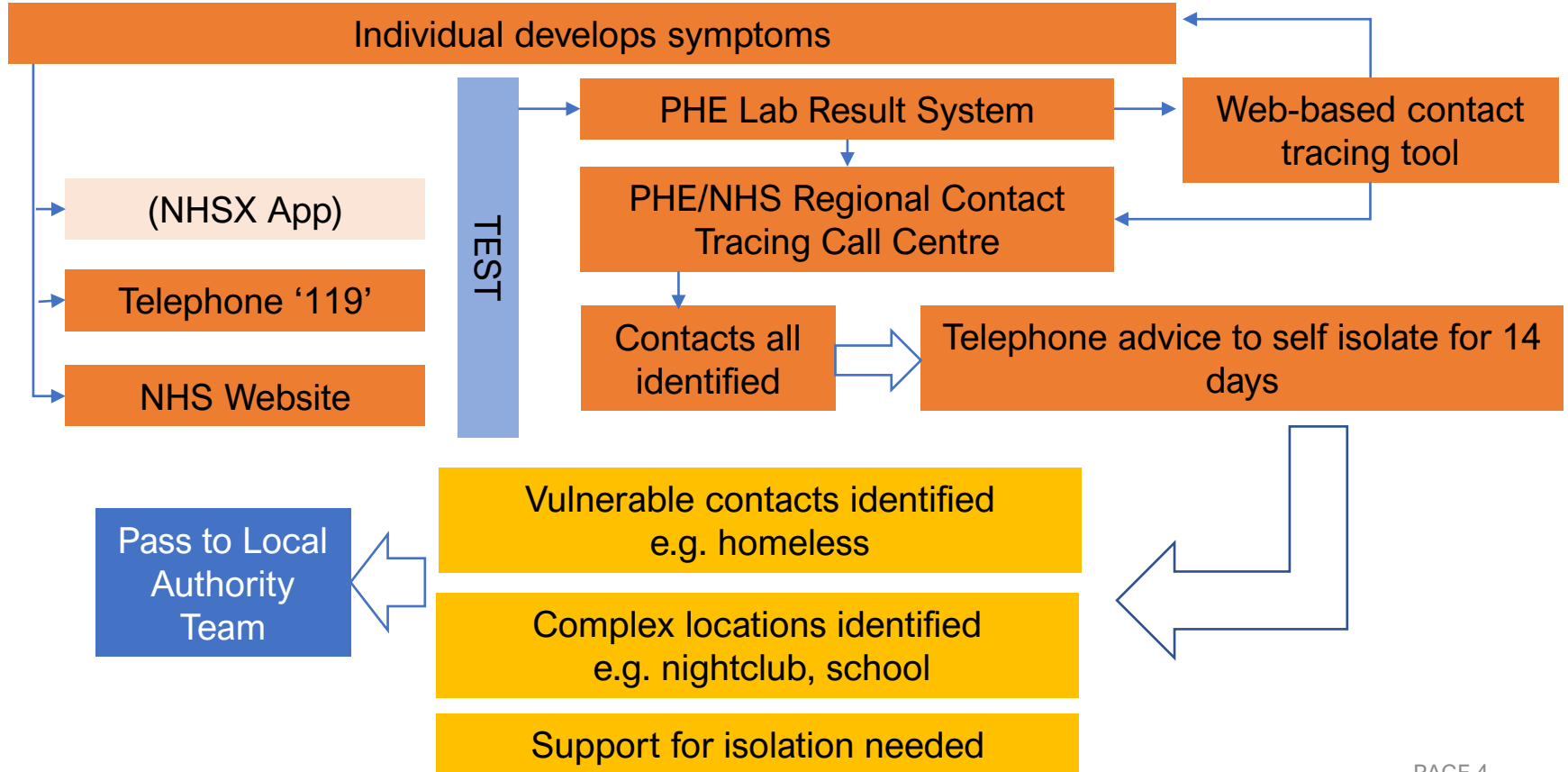Integrated tracing to identify, alert and support those who need to self isolate

Contain
Using data to target approaches to flare ups, at a local and national level

Enable
Improving knowledge of the virus to inform decisions on social and economic restrictions

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Simplified model

Individual develops symptoms

(NHSX App)

Telephone '119'

NHS Website

TEST

PHE Lab Result System

Web-based contact tracing tool

PHE/NHS Regional Contact Tracing Call Centre

Contacts all identified

Telephone advice to self isolate for 14 days

Vulnerable contacts identified e.g. homeless

Complex locations identified e.g. nightclub, school

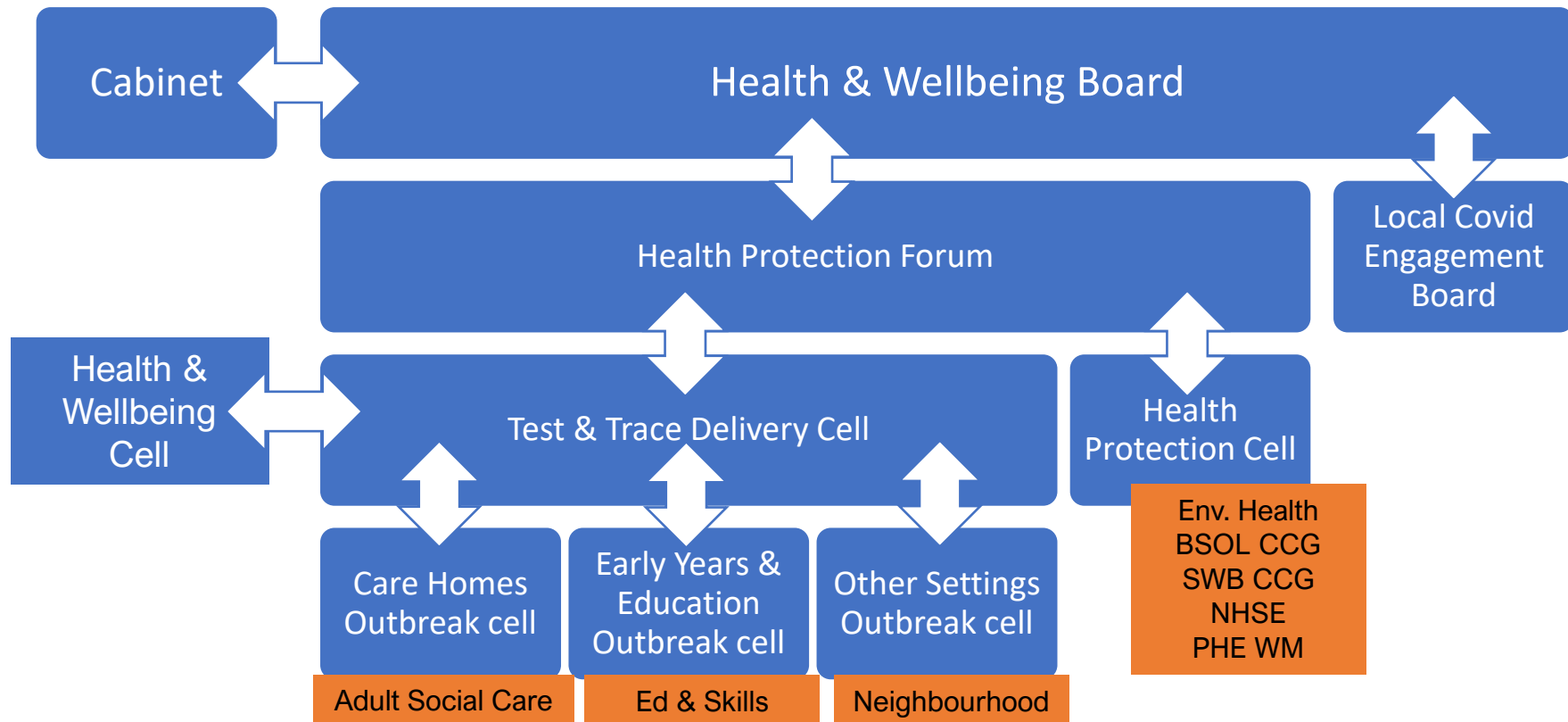Support for isolation needed

Pass to Local Authority Team

Local Outbreak Control Plans will have 7 themes

1. **Care homes & schools**: planning for local outbreaks in care homes & schools e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, potential scenarios and planning the required response
2. **High risk places, locations and communities**: identifying and planning how to manage high risk places, locations and communities of interests, including preventative measures and outbreak management strategies
3. **Local testing capacity**: identifying methods for local testing to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population e.g. defining how to prioritise and manage deployment which may included NHS, pop-up testing sites
4. **Contract tracing in complex settings**: assessing local and regional contact tracing capability in complex settings e.g. identifying specific local complex communities, developing assumptions to estimate demand and options to scale capacity.
5. **Data integration**: Integrating national and local data and scenarios planning through Joint Biosecurity Centre Playbook e.g. data management planning, including data security, NHS data linkages
6. **Vulnerable People**: Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate e.g. facilitating NHS and local support, identifying relevant community groups, etc. and ensuring services meet the needs of diverse communities
7. **Local Boards:** establishing governance structures led by existing Covid-19 Health Protection Boards in conjunction with local NHS and supported by existing Gold Command forums and a new member-led Board to communicate with the general public.

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Governance structures

Tier	Structure	Roles
Local	Covid Health Protection Board	Responsible for the development of local outbreak control plans by Directors of Public Health
	Strategic Co-ordinating Group	Gold emergency planning group to support, co-ordinate and partner with broad local groups to support delivery of outbreak plans
	Local Outbreak Engagement Board	Provide political ownership and public-facing engagement and communication for outbreak response
Regional	Local Resilience Forum	Coordinate public and emergency services to response to regional emergencies
	Integrated Care System	Develop and deliver regional health strategy
National	Test & Trace Programme	Develop national test and trace strategy
	Joint Biosecurity Centre	Provide data and analytics relating to management of regional infection rates building on PHE's surveillance systems

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Birmingham Outline Governance

Structure Responsibilities

Structure	Leadership	Responsibility
Cabinet	Leader	Political accountability and oversight
Health & Wellbeing Board	Cabinet Member for Adult Health & Social Care	Protecting and improving the health & wellbeing of citizens
Test & Trace Oversight Group	Leader	Political oversight and public engagement to support t&t rollout
Health Protection Forum	Director of Public Health	Develop and implement local outbreak response plan, multi-agency strategic engagement
Test & Trace Cell	AD for Public Health	Coordination of local t&t response Logging of t&t decisions
Health Protection Cell	PH Consultant	7 day a week outbreak specialist PH response function
Outbreak response cells	Relevant Directorate AD + PH Consultant/Registrar	Multi-directorate setting outbreak response team to support surveillance and individual setting response

Local Implementation Issues & Risk

Issue	Risk Level	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Financial allocation unknown currently but response required in short term	Medium High - High impact - Medium probability	Specific budget code in place to track spend on t&t response	Medium - Medium impact - Medium probability
PH staff capacity inadequate & burnout risk	High - High impact - High probability	Expanding capacity of the health protection cell drawing on BC cell	Medium - High impact - Medium probability
Inadequate testing and infection control response capacity for complex scenarios	Medium High - High impact - Medium probability	Interim solution agreed with BCHCT & Bsol CCG to provide surge capacity until funding clearer	Low - High impact - Low probability

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Responsibilities for enforcement

- Enforcement of social distancing is a policing issue currently, employers are responsible for providing a safe environment for staff and customers under health and safety legislation.

- Isolation due to symptoms is covered through the Covid-19 act and the responsible public health authority sits with Public Health England.

- Isolation where exposure/contact of a case is currently unclear but is likely to be covered under the Covid-19 act with similar powers for Public Health England.

- Awaiting national guidelines on 'local lockdown'

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