

Policy Update National Living with Covid Plan



Principles underpinning the National Plan

- **Living with COVID-19:** removing domestic restrictions while encouraging safer behaviours through public health advice, in common with longstanding ways of managing most other respiratory illnesses
- **Protecting people most vulnerable to COVID-19:** vaccination guided by Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice, and deploying targeted testing
- **Maintaining resilience:** ongoing surveillance, contingency planning and the ability to reintroduce key capabilities such as mass vaccination and testing in an emergency
- **Securing innovations and opportunities from the COVID-19 response:** including investment in life sciences

Advice to Reduce the spread of Covid

The virus spreads in droplets that come out from our mouths and noses, very small droplets can hang around in the air like cigarette smoke and this is called aerosol transmission. We stop the spread by:



- **Getting the vaccine** which reduces the risk of passing it on and becoming severely unwell
- **Washing our hands** to stop picking the virus up and passing it to our face
- **Wearing a mask** to stop it coming out of our mouths and reduce it getting into our mouths from other people when in crowded indoor spaces



- **Opening windows** and doors to break up the cloud of Covid aerosol droplets by ventilating rooms
- **Stay at home if we have symptoms**

Testing

Free testing will end for most people from 1 April, including regular testing of students in education settings.

Some limited ongoing free testing:

- Limited symptomatic testing available for a small number of at-risk groups (further guidance to be issued on which groups are eligible)
- Free symptomatic testing will remain available to social care staff
- On-going efforts to establish and develop a private market for LFDs to support the public manage their own risks and the risks to those they come in contact

Self-isolation

Legal requirement for positive cases to self-isolate in England will end on 24 February, as will self-isolation support payments. This will be replaced by guidance for people, of all ages, with COVID-19 to stay at home and avoid contact with others

Specific guidance for staff in particularly vulnerable services, such as adult social care, healthcare, and prisons and places of detention will be issued in due course

Advice for fully vaccinated contacts and those aged under 18 to undertake **daily testing**, and the legal requirement for contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate will also end.

Guidance for close contact on what they can do to **limit the risk of infection to themselves and others** will be issued soon

Contact tracing, along with **venue check-ins on the app** will also end on 24 February and further guidelines are awaited on outbreak identification and management in high risk settings.

New guidelines will be issues to support Business to ensure workplace remain safe in line with other risk reduction for infectious diseases

Contingency planning

Ensure there are plans in place **to maintain resilience against significant resurgences or future variants**

Maintain readiness to act if a dangerous new variant risks placing unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

In future, **pharmaceutical capabilities to be the first line of defence** in responding to COVID-19 if risk threatens to place unsustainable pressure on the NHS

Public Inquiry

The **COVID-19 public inquiry** will be chaired by Baroness Heather Hallett, established with full formal powers and **begin in Spring 2022**

The inquiry aims to **learn the lessons of the pandemic that will make a difference to the future**. The terms of reference for the inquiry will be set out in due course and will be subject to public consultation

Birmingham Living with Covid Public Health Strategy

Birmingham Public
Health Division
22/02/2022



Objectives

- Maintain an enhanced public health and environmental health response until September 2022 to provide resilience for the Commonwealth Games
- Utilise data and insight to strengthen surveillance and increase understanding of communities, risk and vaccination uptake barriers, and adapt our intervention strategies as appropriate
- Evolve our community engagement to build on the learning from Covid and create relationships of trust and co-ownership to navigate the on-going challenges, especially in communities of global heritage
- Mitigate the direct and indirect impacts of Covid on health and wellbeing through informing the recovery and levelling up approaches for the City

High level summary of plan

Specialist PH/WH Response

- Continue to provide specialist support to settings around risk reduction
- Work jointly with UKHSA to develop skills and capability to support CWG

Maximise data & insight

- Support health protection surveillance
- Deep dive exploration

Evolving community engagement

- Support vaccine uptake
- Evolve approach with communities of identity and experience

Mitigate legacy of Covid

- Modelling and understanding direct and indirect impacts of Covid on health and wellbeing



For more information please visit
www.birmingham.gov.uk/commonwealth2022

