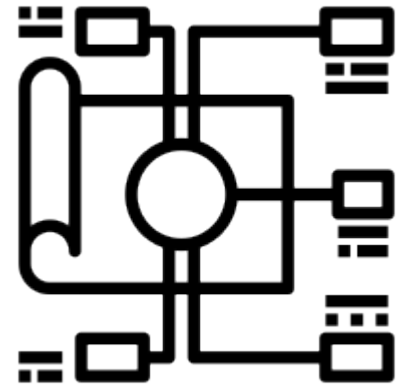# Interim principles and commitments for pandemic planning for Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs) (including COVID-19)

London Borough of Lewisham

October 2022

Version Control

Date	Version	Editor(s)	Edits
13/10/2022	V1	Kerry Lonergan Catherine Mbema	Document prepared Dates added and specific wording amended Key roles and responsibilities added Risk assessment added

Introduction

- New and emerging infections can occur at any time.
- Learning from COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated:
    - the impact of a virus on the local population;
    - highlighted the complex social and behavioural challenges within pandemics, and;
    - how existing plans may need to be adapted to take account of the need for flexible and agile responses.
- This plan sets out a series of principles and commitments from the local authority which will underpin our response to any ARI outbreak.
- This plan replaces the previous Lewisham COVID-19 Local Management Plan (LOMP).
- Any local plans will need to align with the national and regional overarching crisis-response strategies when developed and published (not available at time of writing in October 2022).

Assurance of timely detection and reporting of disease

- The local UKHSA health protection teams (HPTs) monitor the numbers of notifiable infectious diseases (NOIDs) within each borough.

- HPTs will identify any unexpected increases in the number of cases of a NOID in the local population. This will include increased vigilance around high risk settings such as care homes, homeless hostels and asylum seeker institutions.

- The severity and the number of cases confirmed will be shared with local Director of Public Health (DPH).

- Pandemics are instigated nationally when a public health emergency of international concern is declared by WHO.

- The DPH may choose to implement early activity to prepare for a pandemic response within the borough.
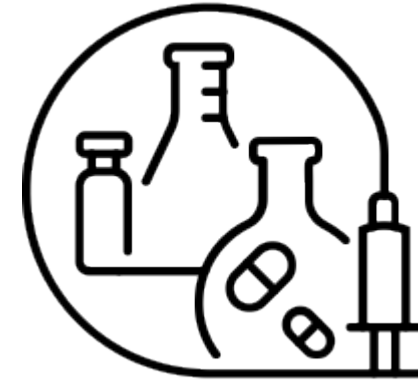
Assessment of risk from detected increase in cases

- UKHSA likely to alert local authority public health teams to the case/outbreak.

- Efforts to contain the spread will be employed by UKHSA, in partnership with Lewisham Council.

- DPH will lead assessment of risk to borough – severity, likelihood of risk, vulnerability of population. Appendix A is a template for this assessment.

- Inequalities will be assessed and mitigations planned for.

- Partners will be part of the risk assessment process (integration and cross coordination).

- Communications with the local community will be planned in partnership between UKHSA and the local authority.

- Use and focus of available resources will be determined to manage the risk.
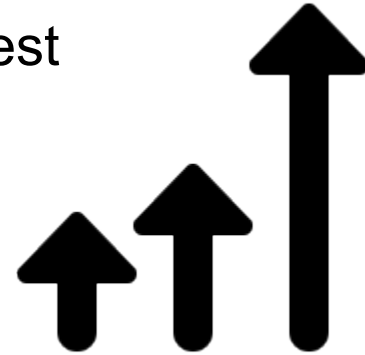
Timely and appropriate treatment for those who are unwell

- Appropriate care and treatment for those who are unwell.
- Offering anti-virals or other medications (where appropriate).
- Encouraging vaccination (if applicable).
- Communicating how services are responding to increasing numbers of patients.
- **Mitigating** against the impact of a pandemic across society, paying particular attention to inequalities.

Escalation to additional activities will be taken with partners, based on the best available evidence

- Monitoring and assessing the pressures on services.

- Implementing adjustments to meet demand.

- **Research** will help inform areas of best practice and best models of care.

- Support of the local communities and work with local residents.

- Mechanisms and relationships to mobilise at pace.

- Ensuring resources are distributed **equitably**.

Partners will put in place testing to ensure they are ready to respond

- Scenario testing sessions.

- Check, challenge, stress and strain on the system.

- Support from emergency planning, preparedness and resilience colleagues.

- Sharing learning and updates.

The Council will plan for recovery and returning to business as usual

- Planning for return to business as usual.
- Exit strategies for additional activities.
- Restoring infrastructure and processes.

Key roles and responsibilities

Organisation/Agency	Role
London Borough of Lewisham	Supporting the work of all partners Scenario testing Initial risk assessment and initiation of outbreak management (when required) Providing evidence of best practice Informing and guiding the introduction of additional support measures Supporting development of exit strategies for additional support measures Informing equitable distribution of resources Oversight of the impact of inequalities
UKHSA	Initial identification and monitoring of cases Alerting DPH and Lewisham Council of increased/concerning activity Continued management of outbreaks, with support from LBL
Local VCS	Advice and guidance to Lewisham Council on communicating risk with communities Offering support and guidance on best ways to support the communities Providing feedback on effect of inequalities
Primary Care	Providing treatment to those who are unwell Provision of vaccination if required to population at risk
Acute Trust (Lewisham & Greenwich Trust)	Providing treatment to those who are unwell Provision of vaccination if required to population at risk
Office of Health Inequalities and Disparities	Provision of additional funding Allowing access to data sharing across agencies
NHS England/Improvement	Provision of additional funding Allowing access to data sharing across agencies

Appendix A: Risk assessment

Time	Person	Place
When was the first case?	Who is affected?	Where have the cases appeared?
When was the most recent case?	Are they vulnerable? Do they have any specific vulnerabilities?	Has there been any spread within or between settings?
What are the dates of all cases? (i.e. to identify transmission)	Is there any evidence of inequality?	

- What is the evidence for continued spread?
- Is there particular concern about severity/increased mortality?
- What is the evidence for containing further outbreak?
- Are there any vaccines or treatments for vulnerable population groups?
- Do people have a full understanding of the situation?