

Manchester COVID-19

**Twelve Point Action Plan: Winter 2021/2022
(incorporating our response to the Omicron Variant of
Concern)**



December 2021




Introduction

This Action Plan for Winter 2021/2022 is an integral part of our high level, public facing [Manchester Local Outbreak Prevention and Response Plan](#), last updated in March 2021. The requirement for local authorities to set out their plans for responding to COVID is detailed in the Department of Health and Social Care's [COVID-19 Contain Framework](#), recently updated on 7th October 2021.

Manchester's Local Outbreak Prevention and Response Plan is organised according to **themes**, the **core aspects of the end-to-end response** and **key developments**:

Themes	Core Aspects of the End-to-End Response	Developments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High risk settings and locations• High risk, clinically vulnerable and underserved communities• Compliance and enforcement• Communications and engagement• Resourcing• Data mobilisation and information sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community testing• Contact tracing• Support to self-isolate• Outbreak management• Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responding to Variants of Concern (VOC) including Omicron• Enhanced Contact Tracing, in partnership with PHE Health Protection Teams• The ongoing role of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)• Activities to enable 'living with COVID-19 (COVID secure)• Interface with vaccine roll out• Action on enduring transmission

A great deal of work has taken place since our Local Outbreak and Response Plan was last updated, and the pandemic has moved into a different phase. Colleagues from across the system have worked tirelessly to ensure that our city moved as safely as possible through all four steps of the national roadmap **and we are now able to deliver targeted interventions in response to the Omicron Variant of Concern (VOC) that emerged at the end of November.** It is important to note that our local Manchester Test and Trace team have the capability and expertise to deal with any VOC as demonstrated by our response in managing the transition from the Alpha to the Delta variant, including the local delivery of Operation Eagle. To reflect these developments and the corresponding evolution of our response, the following adjustments have been made to the framework that underpins our plans:

Developments		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to Variants of Concern (VOC) Enhanced Contact Tracing, in partnership with PHE Health Protection Teams The ongoing role of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) Activities to enable 'living with COVID-19 (COVID secure) 		<i>This work is now very much 'business as usual' in terms of our response and to reflect this is interwoven throughout our plan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface with vaccine roll out 		<i>Given the major role that vaccination now plays nationally in breaking the link between infection and hospital admission, this work is now incorporated as the twelfth and final core aspect of the end-to COVID-19 response</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action on enduring transmission 		<p><i>On 8 June 2021, Manchester along with the rest of Greater Manchester and parts of Lancashire were designated as an 'enhanced response area' (era). This designation officially ended on 26 July, however, the dedicated cross-system COVID-19 Task Group continues to drive work through our Twelve Point Plan.</i></p> <p><i>In September 2021 the Task Group used data analysis to select 12 wards of the city deemed to be at particular risk of enduring transmission that would benefit from enhanced collective, cross-system action: Hulme, Moss Side, Rusholme, Ardwick, Longsight, Fallowfield, Whalley Range, Cheetham, Crumpsall, Moston, Piccadilly and Deansgate. The choice of areas is reviewed every three months.</i></p>

Endorsement and Implementation

The implementation of this Action Plan is overseen by the Manchester COVID-19 Task Group, a multi-agency partnership chaired by the Director of Public Health, David Regan.

Key decisions are escalated to Manchester Gold chaired by Joanne Roney, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council. The membership of Gold includes the Senior Management team of Manchester City Council and senior representatives from Manchester Local Care Organisation, Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning and GMP

For any further information about this plan please contact (david.regan@manchester.gov.uk).

Our Twelve Aims

Our Twelve Point Action Plan has been updated regularly since August 2020 and mirrors the national and Greater Manchester approach, with a focus on the following aims:

1. Support [early years, schools and colleges](#) to remain open and operate as safely as possible, using effective infection control measures, testing, management of outbreaks and vaccination where appropriate. Ensure [universities and other higher education settings](#) remain open and operate as safely as possible using effective infection control measures, testing, management of outbreaks in campuses and student accommodation and vaccination where appropriate
2. Protect the city's most vulnerable residents by reducing and minimising outbreaks in [care homes](#) and other [high risk residential settings](#), including prisons
3. Support [workplaces and businesses](#) to operate as safely as possible, using [compliance](#) measures and [enforcement](#) powers where necessary. Support work to keep our [border](#) safe at Manchester Airport and respond to VOC such as **Omicron**.
4. Facilitate the recovery of the city by supporting the shift from regulatory to voluntary guidance for [events, leisure and religious celebrations](#)
5. Ensure the needs of people and communities that are [high risk, clinically vulnerable or marginalised](#) are prioritised and addressed within the broader COVID response
6. Co-ordinate [communications](#) activity to enable Manchester residents to live safely with COVID and make informed decisions, including around vaccination
7. Deliver targeted community [engagement](#) that supports wider aims and objectives, ensuring that appropriate and culturally sensitive approaches are taken
8. Ensure that decisions in respect of the direct response to COVID-19 and the wider recovery programme are informed consistently by high quality [data and intelligence](#)
9. Continue to deliver the community [testing](#) model, with a focus on testing becoming part of 'living with COVID' and on underrepresented and disproportionately impacted groups
10. Identify local cases of COVID early including VOC such as **Omicron** and provide a rapid response through effective [contact tracing and outbreak management](#)
11. Ensure residents comply with any legal instruction to [self-isolate](#) and have the support to enable them to do so
12. Work with the NHS locally to drive up [vaccination](#) rates among those groups with lower uptake, ensure second vaccinations are administered and support the roll out of booster vaccinations

**EARLY YEARS,
SCHOOLS &
COLLEGES**

AIM: Support early years, schools and colleges to remain open and operate as safely as possible, using effective infection control measures, testing, management of outbreaks and vaccination where appropriate.

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Liz Clarke

Objectives:

1. Closely monitor cases and provide robust local test and trace procedures, with access to expert advice and support to manage complex outbreaks
2. Support settings to implement regular testing at the start of Autumn term and testing in outbreak situations
3. Disseminate timely and accurate advice, guidance and learning
4. Encourage vaccination uptake in adults working with children

September

- Schools returned for the new academic year with lifted restrictions. Packages of support were provided in advance including revised health and safety documents and a revised online positive case reporting form and guidance
- Guidance and support provided re: vaccine hesitancy and onsite testing. There were a high number of cases in primary and particularly secondary schools; small outbreaks were responded to quickly

October

- The majority of schools continued to report cases directly to the Manchester Test & Trace Response Service; the team worked with many parents who were self-isolating and were having difficulty getting their children to school in line with DfE guidance - individual support was provided to parents in this situation
- Two Infection Prevention and Control webinars were delivered to nurseries and childminders across the city

November

- Presented a retrospective analysis of COVID in school-age children and across Manchester school settings to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
- Schools were provided with information on enhanced risk management and interim arrangements in line with other GM areas. No concerns noted on face mask wearing being re-introduced

EARLY YEARS, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

AIM: Support early years, schools and colleges to remain open and operate as safely as possible, using effective infection control measures, testing, management of outbreaks and vaccination where appropriate.

Contain Outbreak
Management
Funding until 31/03

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Implement processes for monitoring cases in settings: analyse info & initiate Outbreak Control Team meetings/additional measures as required				
Implement the new Greater Management Outbreak Management Framework				
Provide regular updates/guidance on reducing & managing infections, incl. webinars				
Monitor & implement changes to national guidance, incl. on-site testing if required				
Ensure risk assessments are updated & appropriate				
Provide advice re: MCC/agreed union position & govt guidance on COVID-related HR matters				
Promote vaccinations for school communities, eligible children & young people				
Promote regular lateral flow testing for staff & students				
Offer onsite visits & COVID-secure audits				

UNIVERSITIES & OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION SETTINGS

AIM: Ensure universities and other higher education settings remain open and operate as safely as possible using effective infection control measures, testing, management of outbreaks in campuses and student accommodation and vaccination where appropriate

Autumn Highlights

Leads: Sarah Doran, Arpana Verma & Jenny Clough

Objectives:

1. Manage complex outbreaks in campuses and student accommodation by closely monitoring cases and providing robust local test and trace procedures, with access to expert advice and support.
2. Support settings to implement regular testing at the start of Autumn term and testing in outbreak situations.
3. Increase student and staff vaccination coverage.

September

- Established a GM Public Health Advice to Universities Group; Outbreak Prevention Plans were in place for all higher education settings
- Regular investigation of cases linked to universities to support an early and effective outbreak response. There were a low number of cases associated with universities

October

- There were a low number of cases in students in university-owned and private student accommodation during this period and no significant outbreaks. Student vaccination uptake was good
- A new GM Higher Education COVID-19 Outbreak Management Framework was developed

November

- Delivered a presentation to LARIA (Local Area Research and Intelligence Association) to demonstrate and share learning from the innovative work of Manchester Test and Trace with universities
- There were a small number of cases in students in university-owned and private student accommodation during this period and no significant outbreaks. There were a small number of staff cases. A small outbreak at BPP University was investigated by the Environmental Health team with no immediate concerns

UNIVERSITIES & OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION SETTINGS

AIM: Ensure universities and other higher education settings remain open and operate as safely as possible using effective infection control measures, testing, management of outbreaks in campuses and student accommodation and vaccination where appropriate

Contain Outbreak
Management
Funding until 31/03

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Monitor cases in settings (staff, students, visitors (incl. to cultural institutions and events))" analyse info & initiate Outbreak Control Team meetings as required				
Promote vaccination options to students & staff; encourage vaccination for health and care students to enable them to attend placements				
Promote winter comms campaign				
Encourage regular LFD testing; implement any guidance for PCR testing in response to VOCs as required				
Recommend PCR testing for students returning home at end of Autumn term	Recommend PCR testing for students returning for Spring term			
Implement new GM Higher Education COVID-19 Outbreak Management Framework				
Plan for 'Plan B' and DfE Levels 3 & 4				
International Students: ensure access to support to self-isolate & accurate advice around their vaccination requirements				
Provide advice/support to private student accommodation providers & promote outbreak notification webform form to enable early reporting >2 cases				
Ensure Outbreak Control Plans in place for private student accommodation providers				
Engage with Student Unions and University leads on COVID-secure plans for campus hospitality and hosting large events, including managing visitors				
Work with university H&S teams to assess COVID controls within on-campus retail sites, pop-up markets & hospitality				

**CARE HOMES & OTHER
HIGH RISK RESIDENTIAL
SETTINGS**

AIM: Protect the city's most vulnerable residents by reducing and minimising outbreaks in care homes and other high risk settings, including prisons and primary care

Autumn Highlights

Leads: Leasa Benson, Nicola Rea

Objectives:

1. Manage outbreaks by closely monitoring cases and provide expert advice and support.
2. Reduce transmission by supporting settings to implement good practice and national/local guidance including infection prevention and control, testing, contact tracing, result management and outbreak management.
3. Increase vaccination uptake in staff and residents by supporting providers and partners.
4. Work with regional Health Protection Teams to manage prison outbreaks.

September

- This period saw the lowest number of COVID situations all year within adult social settings. The team developed a regular Adult Social Care bulletin and continued to support care homes around mandatory vaccination for staff
- Supported the development of systems to identify, report and manage COVID cases in the city's Bridging hotels

October

- Joint work between Environmental Health and the Community Health Protection Team around ventilation in day care centres and to address concerns with COVID-secure plans in some Manchester care homes and isolation provisions for people with COVID returning from hospital stays
- Provided advice to a children's residential home regarding admission of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

November

- Conducted onsite visits to Bridging Hotels; cross-team working to develop responses to cases and outbreaks, arrangements for testing and provision of Infection Prevention & Control advice
- Supported Independent Mental Health Hospitals with Infection Prevention & Control visits and testing

CARE HOMES & OTHER HIGH RISK RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

AIM: Protect the city's most vulnerable residents by reducing and minimising outbreaks in care homes and other high risk settings, including prisons and primary care

Contain Outbreak
Management
Funding until 31/03

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Support settings to manage cases, clusters & outbreaks; incl. interpreting new guidance				
Support settings to implement IPC advice/guidance, incl. provision of audits & on-site visits				
Provide regular bulletin to settings (e.g. guideline changes, PPE/AGP support, IPC training, vaccination)				
Ensure local process in place for providers to access testing and antiviral medication when required				
Work towards winter planning, provision of testing for flu/other respiratory outbreaks				
Contribute to GM Supported Living audit tool				
Support primary care settings, incl. resource pack and audit tools				
Deliver IPC training programme via specialist Infection Control trainers				
Monitor, provide & coordinate Fit testing & training for Aerosol Generating Procedures				
Provide guidance to and implement controls at Afghan Bridging Hotels				
Provide support to prisons, Courts and Approved Premises and homelessness provision around cases, clusters & outbreak, undertaking site visits to assess controls when necessary				
Work to enhance understanding of data in respect of cases and tests in high-risk settings				

**WORKPLACES,
BUSINESSES & BORDER**

AIM: Support workplaces and businesses to operate as safely as possible, using compliance measures and enforcement powers where necessary. Support work to keep our border safe at Manchester Airport

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Carmel Hughes

Objectives:

1. Reduce transmission by supporting businesses to reactively and proactively implement good practice and national and local guidance.
2. Enact compliance measures and enforcement powers where necessary.
3. Provide early identification of potential issues within businesses using data and intelligence.
4. Support compliance with testing and quarantine regimes for international travellers and work with airside partners to facilitate access to local primary care.

September

- Managed Quarantine Hotels transitioned to Bridging Hotels (localities-led), with a move from DHSC to Home Office-led controls involving integrated work between local and regional teams
- Ventilation promoted with venues in advance of winter

October

- No large workplace outbreaks were reported. Engagement took place with businesses re: CO² monitors and ventilation issues
- 120 visits to businesses took place, with distribution of LFD test kits to businesses in Rusholme, Hulme, Moss Side, Miles Platting, Moston, Newton Heath and Harpurhey

November

- Investigated workplace outbreaks at a travel company, estate agents and clothing wholesaler; provided advice and guidance to improve controls, notification procedures and ventilation
- Reassurance was provided to a member of the public who raised a concern regarding a funeral they had attended and potential risk of an open casket. A visit to the setting confirmed all required controls were in place to prevent risk of transmission

WORKPLACES, BUSINESSES & BORDER

AIM: Support workplaces and businesses to operate as safely as possible, using compliance measures and enforcement powers where necessary. Support work to keep our border safe at Manchester Airport

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Develop/recalibrate COVID response services - blended & flexible approach				
Develop Eating Out Engagement Project to incl. night-time economy & events				
Enhanced engagement/site visits, coordinating different elements of COVID response				
Develop guidance & information re: COVID controls & risk assessments, incl. ventilation & CO ² monitors				
Prepare businesses to return to full capacity, pre-COVID workplace activities & operations				
Distribute lateral flow testing kits; implement any guidance for PCR testing in response to VOCs as required				
Engage with venues re: Christmas celebrations				
Take enforcement action where necessary, incl. use of COVID-19 Direction Powers				
Work with Manchester Business Support Group to offer regulatory and COVID-secure guidance to small and medium enterprises as they move towards BAU				
Work with Community Health Protection Team & homelessness to provide outbreak management procedures				
Comms to businesses re: testing & booster				

OUR 12 AREAS

			REVIEW	
Prioritise workplaces for further enhanced action (PCC line lists, common exp reports, risky venue alerts)				
Work with testing team/neighbourhoods to co-deliver pop-ups				

Cheetham
CrumpsallArdwick
LongsightMoston
Piccadilly
DeansgateHulme
Moss Side
Rusholme

Fallowfield & Whalley Range

EVENTS, LEISURE & RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS

AIM: Facilitate the recovery of the city by supporting the shift from regulatory to voluntary guidance for events, leisure and religious celebrations, and to ensure the sector is well positioned to respond to any national policy changes

Autumn Highlights

Leads: Barry Gillespie, Julie Jerram, Carmel Hughes

Objectives:

1. Support the event sector to reactivate ensuring that event organisers can proceed with confidence and we are adequately protecting our residents and visitors.
2. Working closely with communities, provide leadership and guidance in order to safely and proportionately manage the risk of transmission of COVID.
3. Ensure that event organisers/venue operators are clear with regard to their legal responsibilities and provide support and advice, using enforcement powers where necessary.

September

- Good controls in place and effective partnership working for large events, including Sounds of the City, Parklife, Warehouse Project and Carnival 50
- Preparation for Bonfire Night celebrations, the Conservative Party Conference and Christmas markets

October

- Work took place with the FA and Trafford Council on COVID-secure plans for the UEFA Women's Champion Football Draw
- Site visits and assessment of controls took place at the Cathedral Gardens Ice Rink, Levenshulme Market and for Halloween and Bonfire Night celebrations

November

- Undertook inspections to all Christmas Market food concessions, checking COVID-secure risk assessments. Triangulated and monitored case data closely to enable a quick response to any transmission issues
- Worked closely with the Etihad Stadium and the Palace Theatre in response to positive cases; provided advice to British Taekwondo in order to enable a young athlete to participate in the Junior European Championships

EVENTS, LEISURE & RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS

AIM: Facilitate the recovery of the city by supporting the shift from regulatory to voluntary guidance for events, leisure and religious celebrations, and to ensure the sector is well positioned to respond to any national policy changes

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Provide events programme with Partnership approach to support planned events (Safety Advisory Group framework and/or Risk Assessments) & retain a cautious approach to large scale, free-to-access, close proximity events				
Undertake pre-event site visits to assess COVID controls				
Define city's Risk Management approach incl. use of the NHS COVID pass.				
Apply COVID-19 Direction Powers where organisers fail to put appropriate controls in place				
Support sector & supply chain with labour, supplies & equipment challenges				
Develop messaging for communities/audiences promoting vaccination, testing & ongoing requirement for COVID control measures				
Establish Events Commission to shape how Manchester Event Strategy can support city's recovery programme (2022 onward)				

HIGH RISK, CLINICALLY VULNERABLE & MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

AIM: Ensure the needs of people and communities that are high risk, clinically vulnerable or marginalised are prioritised and addressed within the broader COVID response

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Cordelle Ofori

Objectives:

1. Ensure that communications activity is inclusive of and targeted on priority groups.
2. Ensure the needs of priority groups are understood and used to drive engagement activity.
3. Ensure priority groups can access and benefit from all COVID response offers (testing, contact tracing, support to self-isolate, vaccination) and general support for living with COVID by regularly monitoring insight and intelligence from a health equity perspective

September

- Over 2000 COVID Chats had taken place, with more requests being received for training
- Central Coordination Hub staff undertook training on vaccinations to enable them incorporate vaccination advice when speaking to the public about testing, contact tracing and support to self-isolate

October

- The vaccination helpline went live, calls were received from across GM and enquiries covering a wide range of vaccination topics
- Changes were trialled to the delivery of the Vaccine Equity meetings to recreate the connections that worked well during the enhanced response area work, bringing together soft intelligence, data, staff working on the ground and vaccination programme leads

November

- Approved 40 applications to the COVID Health Equity Manchester Targeted Grant Fund for small community groups
- Significantly increased the conversion of enquiries to the Vaccination Helpline to vaccination appointments

AIM: Ensure the needs of people and communities that are high risk, clinically vulnerable or marginalised are prioritised and addressed within the broader COVID response

	December	January	February	March	Q1 2022	
	Develop & strengthen approach to inclusive communication					
	Focus on health inclusion groups (new migrants, refugees & asylum seekers, Gypsies, Roma & Irish travellers)					
	Commission project to improve engagement with Black Caribbean communities					
	Commission project to improve engagement in young Pakistani communities					
	Continued work to support and strengthen Sounding Boards					
	COVID Chats – next steps					
	Identify actions to address the immediate indirect consequences of COVID					
	Deliver CHEM targeted fund 21/22					
	Deliver Vaccine Equity Plan, incl. support for Evergreen & Booster offers					
	Ensure Vaccination helpline meets needs of COVID-19 Health Equity Manchester priority groups					

COMMUNICATIONS

AIM: Co-ordinate communications activity to enable Manchester residents to live safely with COVID and make informed decisions, including around vaccination and responding to Variants of Concern such as **Omicron**

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Alun Ireland

Objectives:

1. Support the cultural shift to 'living with COVID' by communicating clear messages that people will need to continue longer term with regular testing, contact tracing, infection prevention and control measures.
2. Increase vaccination uptake by ensuring that the general public and other key stakeholders have clear information about the vaccination programme, its delivery and effectiveness

September

- Developed the Winter Vaccination Campaign, bringing together information about the COVID vaccine, booster, flu jab and testing
- 'Return to School' packages and campaign messages provided in 'Welcome Back' style

October

- Manchester's Winter communications campaign was launched, featuring a 'Manchester's winter is coming' theme with a 'Game of Thrones' lookalike actor and a winter message from Manchester's Director of Public Health
- Full channel plan initiated for the campaign, including media relations, digital screens, radio, mobile phone advertising, GP surgeries, student pubs, website, social media, local publications etc. Vaccination site-based assets were also developed

November

- Developed new communications assets for Christmas parties and shopping
- Broadened the Winter Wellness messages, including work with the Age Friendly Team

COMMUNICATIONS

AIM: Co-ordinate communications activity to enable Manchester residents to live safely with COVID and make informed decisions, including around vaccination and responding to Variants of Concern such as **Omicron**

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Work across MFT, MHCC, MLCO & MCC to implement joint community engagement plans for targeted work				
Deliver Winter Comms Campaign				
Support delivery of Vaccine Prog winter comms plan				
Ongoing delivery to promote the 'evergreen' offer				
Targeted activity around boosters and second doses				
Support inequalities workstream incl. work with neighbourhoods				
Targeted sector & service specific communications support incl. for cultural events				
Co-ordinate messaging in response to any Variants of Concern				

OUR 12 AREAS

			REVIEW	
Tailor messaging using feedback from Neighbourhood Teams/community groups for 'hard to reach' groups				

Cheetham
CrumpsallArdwick
LongsightMoston
Piccadilly
DeansgateHulme
Moss Side
Rusholme

Fallowfield & Whalley Range

ENGAGEMENT

AIM: Deliver targeted community engagement that supports wider aims and objectives, ensuring that appropriate and culturally sensitive approaches are taken

Autumn Highlights

Leads: Shefali Kapoor,
Cordelle Ofori

Objectives:

1. Plan and deliver targeted community engagement activity informed by data/intelligence-led and place-based approach
2. Ensure a wide as reach as possible working with the right organisations and individuals so that messaging is able to come from trusted sources.
3. Deliver an effective response to Variants of Concern and Variants Under Investigation where required.

September

- Engagement work targeting young people at Parklife used a system-wide approach
- Worked with People Voice media to produce grassroot films with 9 VCSE organisations citywide, targeting key communities with foodbanks

October

- Staff from the five neighbourhoods covering the 12 priority areas began meeting weekly to ensure a consistent approach and to share resources
- The Citywide Neighbourhoods (COVID) Response Team commenced work to deliver the Youth Engagement Strategy over the next 6 months

November

- Delivered a wide range of engagement activities in the priority wards, including a Wellbeing Chat pop-up in Moss Side & Rusholme, distribution of 'COVID Safe Packs' to popular student venues in Fallowfield, library engagement sessions in the central area, a supermarket stall targeted at the Jewish community in Cheetham & Crumpsall and work with a VCSE group in Longsight to update and distribute COVID posters they had created
- Met with Neighbourhood Managers and COVID Connectors to develop and inform the Youth Engagement Strategy and identify key influencers

ENGAGEMENT

AIM: Deliver targeted community engagement that supports wider aims and objectives, ensuring that appropriate and culturally sensitive approaches are taken

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Place-based approach to community engagement - work with local communities to support testing & vaccination messages				
Community Champions strength-based approach (use of trusted anchor institutions, faith & community groups, primary schools, youth & play orgs, General Practices) building trust & improving engagement with Black, Asian & disabled communities				
Strengthen role of COVID Chat coordinators and COVID Chat provider group				

OUR 12 AREAS

Youth engagement: Work with Teams Around Neighbourhoods to design 100-day challenge programme of events	REVIEW		
	Youth engagement: Engage target groups via delivery of 100-day challenge		
	Enhanced engagement & delivery of testing & vaccination messages		
	Ensure that n/hood teams have opportunity to feedback on tailored messages for their communities		
	Cascade messages and updates across wider neighbourhood teams		
	Analyse granular data (e.g. housing types, analysis of non-contactable individuals) to target enhanced engagement		

Cheetham Crumpsall

Ardwick Longsight

Moston Piccadilly Deansgate

Hulme Moss Side Rusholme

Fallowfield & Whalley Range

DATA & INTELLIGENCE

AIM: Ensure that decisions in respect of the direct response to COVID-19 and the wider recovery programme are informed consistently by high quality data and intelligence

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Neil Bendel

Objectives:

1. Use data and intelligence to review and inform the responses to, and outcomes of, changes to national and local COVID guidance and regulations.
2. Work with partners to continue to refine and improve data management and reporting processes, adding new data sources where appropriate.
3. Use existing and emerging data sources to analyse the impact and effectiveness of historic and future interventions to inform COVID response and recovery programmes

September

- Analysed data to support the COVID-19 Task Group to select twelve areas of the city as 'areas of collective action', including high case rates, low testing rates, low levels of compliance with contact tracing, need for support to self-isolate, low vaccination rates and local intelligence
- Undertook analysis to identify the number of non-household contacts for school-age cases to support communications with Regional and National Contact Tracing teams.

October

- Developed a Tableau dashboard to monitor key surveillance measures across the 12 priority wards for collective action
- Commenced analysis on excess deaths in Manchester residents throughout the pandemic

November

- Completed an initial analysis of COVID-19 re-infections
- Provided data analysis to support a review of the priority areas

DATA & INTELLIGENCE

AIM: Ensure that decisions in respect of the direct response to COVID-19 and the wider recovery programme are informed consistently by high quality data and intelligence **including the early warning system for the Omicron VOC**

*PRIORITIES THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO INDIVIDUAL WORKSTREAMS ARE INCLUDED ELSEWHERE IN THE PLAN

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
	Improve linkages between vaccination, positive tests & cases data sets			
	Monitor emerging research on key monitoring and surveillance tools (e.g. regarding reinfections)			
	Support COVID-19 Vaccination Programme incl. seasonal flu & Booster workstreams			
	Raise awareness of Post-Acute Covid-19 Syndrome in communities & interactions with existing health inequalities			
	Develop programme of work to support COVID-19 Recovery Programme			
	Undertake retrospective analysis of local impact of COVID, beginning with excess deaths by cause			
	Develop programme of work to support the transition to Manchester Health Protection Board			
	Develop links with MFT Clinical Sciences Data Unit to inform modelling of secondary care demand & implications for Winter Pressures			

OUR 12 AREAS

			REVIEW	
	Support INTs with data and intelligence synthesis			

Cheetham
CrumpsallArdwick
LongsightMoston
Piccadilly
DeansgateHulme
Moss Side
Rusholme

Fallowfield & Whalley Range

TESTING

AIM: Continue to deliver the community testing model, with a focus on testing becoming part of 'living with COVID' and on underrepresented and disproportionately impacted groups

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Tim Keeley

Objectives:

1. Continue to adapt our community testing offer, supporting improved and equitable access.
2. Support schools, universities and businesses through encouraging regular asymptomatic testing.
3. Support testing in targeted priority groups, addressing any gaps, and deliver an effective response to Variants of Concern and Variants Under Investigation through surge testing where required.

September

- Testing pop-ups held at Gorton Festival, Whitworth Park and New Smithfield Market
- Work ongoing with COVID Chat Coordinators and to increase understanding of barriers to testing including via surveys at testing sites.

October

- A second joint testing and vaccination event was held in Chinatown, led by the Integrated Neighbourhood Team, this was very successful with 62 assisted tests completed and 252 testing kits distributed
- A joint testing and flu vaccination event in was held at a Youth Centre on the Longsight/Ardwick border

November

- The Manchester Test & Trace Response Service Testing Team conducted 38 community tests and 9 rounds of asymptomatic testing and 1 round of outbreak testing in Extra Care facilities
- Modelled potential local costs for community testing in the event of national funding coming to an end, including support for schools, high-risk settings, targeted pop-ups, engagement via voluntary and community-based organisations and storage and distribution

TESTING

AIM: Continue to deliver the community testing model, with a focus on testing becoming part of 'living with COVID' and on underrepresented and disproportionately impacted groups and mobilising capacity **as necessary to respond to the Omicron VOC**

CITYWIDE

	December	January	February	March	Q1 2022	
		Likely rationalisation of national testing sites				
	Monitor demand on Local PCR Testing Sites					
	Review agile community asymptomatic testing & home test distribution in line with Govt review of programme and our contingency planning					
	Promote asymptomatic testing in line with Government guidance through regular comms/engagement & via business settings					
		Work with UKHSA to implement LTS (PCR testing) rationalisation strategy for 2022				
	Monitor & support school testing					
	Provide 'step up to care' testing & supported testing for Extracare settings					
	Support high risk settings with regular & outbreak testing					
	Monitor implementation of enhanced testing pilot for symptomatic disabled people unable to access testing via usual routes.					
	Work with partners to implement testing in response to VOCs, as and when required					
	Gather, analyse, share & implement learning					

OUR 12 AREAS

			REVIEW
Focus of Community Testing Strategy & Plan			
Work with Neighbourhood Teams (Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and MCC) to deliver joint testing/vaccination pop-ups			

Cheetham
CrumpsallArdwick
LongsightMoston
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Fallowfield & Whalley Range

**CONTACT TRACING &
OUTBREAK
MANAGEMENT**

AIM: Identify local cases of COVID early and provide a rapid response through effective contact tracing and outbreak management

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Sophie Black

Objectives:

1. Increase the number of cases managed locally by continuing to develop the 'locality first, GM-supported' model of contact tracing.
2. Focus on local intelligence, skill and networks to engage residents in the contact tracing process.
3. Coordinate knowledge, data and intelligence to identify and respond to situations at the earliest stage and provide a responsive local outbreak management response across all settings.
4. Deliver an effective response to Variants of Concern and Variants Under Investigation where required.

September

- The local contact tracing team dealt with an increase in people being wrongly informed by NHS Test & Trace to extend self-isolation after re-testing within 90 days of a previous positive test
- Over 70% of residents were contacted who would not have been contact traced by the national system

October

- Work began to assess the option of moving to a 'Local Four' approach to contact tracing which bypasses the national system, potentially making contact tracing more effective and streamlined
- 40% of cases in this period were of school age, an increase of 10% from the previous month. Conversations with residents were predominantly centred around the clarification of isolation guidance, travel advice and retesting within 90 days.

November

- The local contact tracing team used a variety of investigative methods to quickly resolve issues arising from an error with the national Test and Trace database causing a backlog of Index cases and duplication of work

CONTACT TRACING & OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

AIM: Identify local cases of COVID early and provide a rapid response though effective contact tracing and outbreak management **with a particular focus on responding to the Omicron VOC**

Contain Outbreak
Management
Funding until 31/03

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Use full range of available (incl. common exposure reports & postcode coincidence reports) to identify & respond to situations at the earliest stage				
Monitor changes to restrictions/guidance/case rates & model demand				
Update/adapt Local Outbreak Management Processes, including Case Management System, to reflect changing guidance/new developments & VOCs				
Xmas service delivery planning				
Model longer term (post-March) options for contact tracing, shaped by national announcements expected early Jan				
Gather, analyse, share & implement learning				

OUR 12 AREAS

			REVIEW	
Explore feasibility of adopting 'Local Four'				

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SUPPORT TO SELF-ISOLATE

AIM: Ensure residents comply with any legal instruction to self-isolate and have the support to enable them to do so

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Sophie Black

Objectives:

1. Provide practical, emotional and social support to those who need it, working with key partners and learning from cases to develop and enhance our package of support.
2. Improve awareness of the need to self-isolate, how long for, its importance and the support available.

September

- 12-month anniversary of the NHS Test & Trace Support Payments scheme, which had received an average of 37 applications per day (13,519 exc. duplicates) and paid out £2,943,000 to 5886 applicants
- Continued delivery and funding of the enhanced isolation support was agreed by the GMCA Pathfinder Programme Board.

October

- The geographical areas being targeted for enhanced support to self-isolate activity were changed from the 8 enhanced response areas to the 12 priority areas of collective action, resulting in increased activity
- The team reached out to a total of 2,551 residents across the city in this period (1980 in the 12 priority wards; 571 elsewhere in the city).

November

- The Support to Self-Isolate Team reached out to over 2,600 households in this period
- In total, 16,661 NHS Test & Trace Support Payment applications have been received

NHS Test & Trace Support
Payment Scheme to
continue until 31/03

SUPPORT TO SELF-ISOLATE

AIM: Ensure residents comply with any legal instruction to self-isolate and have the support to enable them to do so

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
Provide support & signposting to residents required to self isolate, using learning from the GM Pilot				
Deliver VCSE funding to 'plug the gaps' in existing support to self isolate offer				
Expand/update support to self isolate offer in response to feedback, incl. directory of OOH services				
Deliver NHS Test & Trace Support Payments				
Use communications to support levels of compliance with periods of isolation				
Model options post-March, incl. integrating with the wider humanitarian response activity				
Gather, analyse, share & implement learning				
Participate in evaluation of GM Pilot				

OUR 12 AREAS

			REVIEW	
Deliver enhanced package of support				

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VACCINATION

AIM: Work with the NHS locally to drive up vaccination rates among those groups with lower uptake, ensure second vaccinations are administered and support the roll out of booster vaccinations

Autumn Highlights

Lead: Manisha Kumar

Objectives:

1. Deliver a safe and effective vaccination programme, maximising coverage across the whole population.
2. Provide effective system coordination of the 'evergreen offer' for COVID vaccination, the COVID booster, flu vaccination and the children's vaccination programme.
3. Facilitate and support the design of a sustainable vaccine delivery function

September

- There was a strong start to college vaccination pop-ups targeting 16–17-year-olds, with 210 vaccinations delivered at Xaverian College
- The Booster programme commenced, with a phased response with vaccinations taking place 6 months post-second dose

October

- The children's' vaccination (12-15) offer was expanded to include a secondary offer at the mass vaccination centre, pharmacies and two local vaccination sites; coverage was on a par with or better than other GM areas
- The Gateway started making outbound calls to immune-suppressed patients for their third dose

November

- All Manchester schools bar one were visited as part of the vaccine programme; approximately 25% of the school aged population were vaccinated as a result of the visits
- Manchester continues to perform well in relation to vaccine uptake amongst pregnant women

VACCINATION

AIM: Work with the NHS locally to drive up vaccination rates among those groups with lower uptake, ensure second vaccinations are administered and support the roll out of booster vaccinations

CITYWIDE

December	January	February	March	Q1 2022
"Evergreen" Vaccination Offer for all JCVI cohorts				
Second Doses for 16 /17 year olds and all ages who are overdue				
Booster programme: 40+ and planning for potential wider cohorts				
Immunosuppressed 3rd dose				
12-15 year olds In/Out of School Offer – planning for potential 2 nd doses				
Flu programme				
Inequalities (e.g. pregnant women, asylum seekers, homeless, Learning Disability)				
Deliver Vacc Programme Communications and Engagement Plan incl. targeted engagement within 'at risk' communities at neighbourhood level				
Deliver Vaccine Equity Plan - targeted delivery plans for wards/community groups with lowest coverage				

OUR 12 AREAS

			REVIEW
Targeted delivery			
Targeted comms & engagement			

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