

Outbreak Control Plan

Covid 19 Contain Framework: Local Powers to Contain Outbreaks

Background

The York Outbreak Control Plan makes reference to both national and local lockdowns, as was the situation at the time of writing the plan in June 2020. This document updates the detail in the plan following the issuing of further national guidance and associated regulations in relation to local powers.

Local Powers

On 18th July 2020 The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations 2020 came into force. These regulations set out the powers that local authorities have to impose restrictions in order to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus. The regulations allow for local authorities to:

- restrict access to, or close, individual premises
- prohibit certain events (or types of event) from taking place
- restrict access to, or close, public outdoor places (or types of outdoor places).

In order to enact these powers, the local authority must be able to provide evidence that the following three conditions have been met:

1. the direction responds to a serious and imminent threat to public health in the local authority's area

2. the direction is necessary to prevent, protect against, control or provide a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection in the local authority's area of coronavirus
3. the prohibitions, requirements or restrictions imposed by the direction are a proportionate means of achieving that purpose

A local decision to restrict types of events or types of places across York, would be progressed through the governance structure outlined within the Outbreak Control Plan, and would be based on data giving evidence that such events or places were driving a rise in infection rates across the city. A local decision to restrict a specific event being planned for York, would be agreed at the Outbreak Management Group, based upon evidence gathered through routes such as licensing application Safety Advisory Group meetings, or planning applications. An internal council procedure is in place to enact this.

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