

Covid19 Outbreak Scenario Planning

Places of worship, including weddings and funerals

July 2020

Why are we here? Working together to prevent and manage potential COVID-19 outbreaks

- We would appreciate your help to understand:
 - The key risks / issues/ challenges in preventing and managing COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in places of worship and their congregations
 - The best routes for contacting places of worship in the case of an outbreak in the surrounding area, community or congregation
- Test a couple of scenarios
- What information do you need?

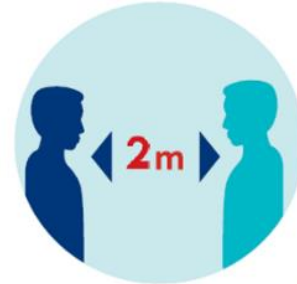
(Mental First Aid Community programme – 1000 funded places for residents and people working in Croydon – MHFA@croydon.gov.uk)

- A bit of housekeeping – it would be great if you could post comments / questions in the chat function

Key actions for stopping COVID-19

Help prevent the spread

- Recognise symptoms
 - Stay at home if you have symptoms or if a family member has symptoms
 - Request a Test, Inform employer, co workers, diocese
 - Share contacts with Test and Trace
 - Be COVID-19 secure
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- **Do you know if your places of worship are COVID-19 secure?**



Keep a minimum distance of 2 metres where possible



Wash hands frequently (for at least 20 seconds) or use a hand sanitiser with a minimum of 60% alcohol



Clean surfaces frequently including door handles, rails, hoists etc.



Avoid touching your face, nose and eyes

What does COVID-19 secure mean?

- Undertaking COVID-19 risk assessments and implementing actions to address any problems that are identified
- Implementing all the key prevention measures for places of worship
- Ensuring co-workers and the congregation attendees, groups who hire your premises follow your COVID-19 secure guidelines

COVID-19 resources for Places of Worship

Guidance for the safe use of places of worship from 4 July

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-4-july> (Last updated 17 July 2020)

Translated versions

Guidance of small marriages and civil partnerships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships> (Updated 17 July 2020)

Guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic> (Last updated 9 July 2020)

What are the risks for places of worship?

Setting	Risk Groups	Risk situations
Do we know the locations of the settings?	Older people Vulnerable groups Types of activities	Pinch points when entering and exiting the building Toilets
Do we know how to contact the settings?	People renting premises Children	Touch points If an event, numbers of people attending Too many attendees to have social distancing
How would we know if every setting has completed a risk assessment and is following the COVID-19 prevention measures set out in this?		People not staying in their household bubbles Venue is used by a variety of groups, and one group does not follow guidelines Exceeding 30 limits on groups Meeting and greeting

What do we and yourselves need to do?

	Local Authority	Individuals, places of worship,
Prevention	<p>Training, interpreting and summarising government guidance</p> <p>Responding to enquiries from the community</p>	<p>All - Following the hand washing, social distancing, minimising contacts, self-isolating, testing, wearing face coverings, and complying with Places of Worship COVID-19 secure guidance</p> <p>Places of worship - Undertake a COVID secure risk assessment and put necessary measures in place</p>
Data and Intelligence	<p>Identify potential outbreaks, community clusters using local knowledge and data</p> <p>Receive notification of outbreak from LCRC</p>	<p>Keep a record of attendees (for 21 days – seek their consent)</p> <p>Identify a key contact in the case of an outbreak</p> <p>Keep a copy of the risk assessment</p>
Outbreak Management	<p>For an outbreak in a community, provide support to community which may include translated materials, support to self-isolate, advice and enforcement</p>	<p>The Council and or London Health protection team maybe in contact if there has been an outbreak and a number of cases have been in contact with the Place of Worship</p>
Support	<p>Support vulnerable contacts who are required to self-isolate</p>	<p>Encourage members of the congregation who have been made vulnerable because of COVID-19 self isolating to contact the Council</p>
Communications	<p>Local communications e.g. briefings for Cllrs, local press inquiries, communications with the public</p>	<p>Help circulate COVID-19 communications to the congregations</p>

Questions and answers?

- What could be the worst case COVID-19 scenario for your places of worship / congregations?
 - How do you think this could be prevented ?
- What needs / challenges / questions might your Place of Worship have around:
 - Prevention? COVID-19 information?
 - Risk assessments?
 - Communication?
 - Wider community?
 - Testing?
 - Contact tracing?
- Other challenges

Questions about what we need to know?

- What information do we know is already being collected by settings and who has / knows it?
- How would we find key contacts at all the settings?
- What additional information do you think we need ?

Scenario 1

4 members of the congregation have let you know that they have tested positive for COVID-19 and they attended service / prayers last weekend. The congregation comes from a wide area.

- What are the risks?
- What does the Place of Worship need to do?
 - Cleaning?
 - Contact congregation?
 - Prevention?
- What info could you provide? Eg who else attended the day before – the 21 day records
- Who would be Place of Worship key contact for Council or LCRC?
- What could we do?
- How do we work together?
- What challenges might there be?
- What would be the support needs for staff / congregation / community?

Scenario 2

There is a big religious festival coming up, in this case Eid?

- What are the risks?
 - What can be done to ensure EID celebrations are COVID secure? minimise risks?
 - What could we do?
 - How do we work together?
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- The LA has powers to cancel organised events (for example sporting events, concerts, weddings, faith services) due to COVID-19 outbreak risks. Removed the requirement to go to a magistrate.

Any questions and next steps

What is an Incident Management Team and what does it do?

In the event of an outbreak, the local authority may be requested to establish an incident management team (IMT) to respond to the outbreak, supported by the London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC). The membership of this team is:

Role	Title/Member
Chair and Public Health Lead	Council CE, Director of Public Health, Public Health Consultant depending on the size of the outbreak
Representatives from the setting / community where the outbreak is located	Place of Worship representative
Public Health	Public Health Principals
Environmental Health Lead	Head of Environmental Health or Health and Safety (depending on setting)
Communications Lead	Communication Representative
Setting Based/Sector Specialist	Identified based on outbreak setting
Data Lead	Data Analyst/Intelligence Analyst
Meeting Coordination, Loggist	Democratic Services
CCG Lead	Member of the Clinical Commissioning Group
Testing Lead	Member of Testing Group
Primary Care Lead	Rachel Tunbridge, GP and/or relevant Primary Care Network Clinical Director
HPT Lead	Member of the LCRC

How would we know about and manage an outbreak?

- Identifying increasing cases of COVID-19 (initial awareness)
 - How would we (or you) know there was a problem ?
 - How would we (or you) know how the problem was progressing ?
- What would happen if there was an outbreak?
 - What actions would we take?
 - When and how might your leaders become involved?
 - Who would be involved in an Incident Management Team?

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Action	Who	When
Prevention		
Data and Intelligence		
Management		
Support		
Communications		

Next steps

- Actions from this session
- Send out and provide comment on the action cards
- Run scenarios
- Feedback from IMT to share learning and present summary process information

Risks and gaps

- What are the risks and gaps that this scenario raises?
- Are there any other risks and or gaps?
- Who can we work with/discuss with to take this forward?

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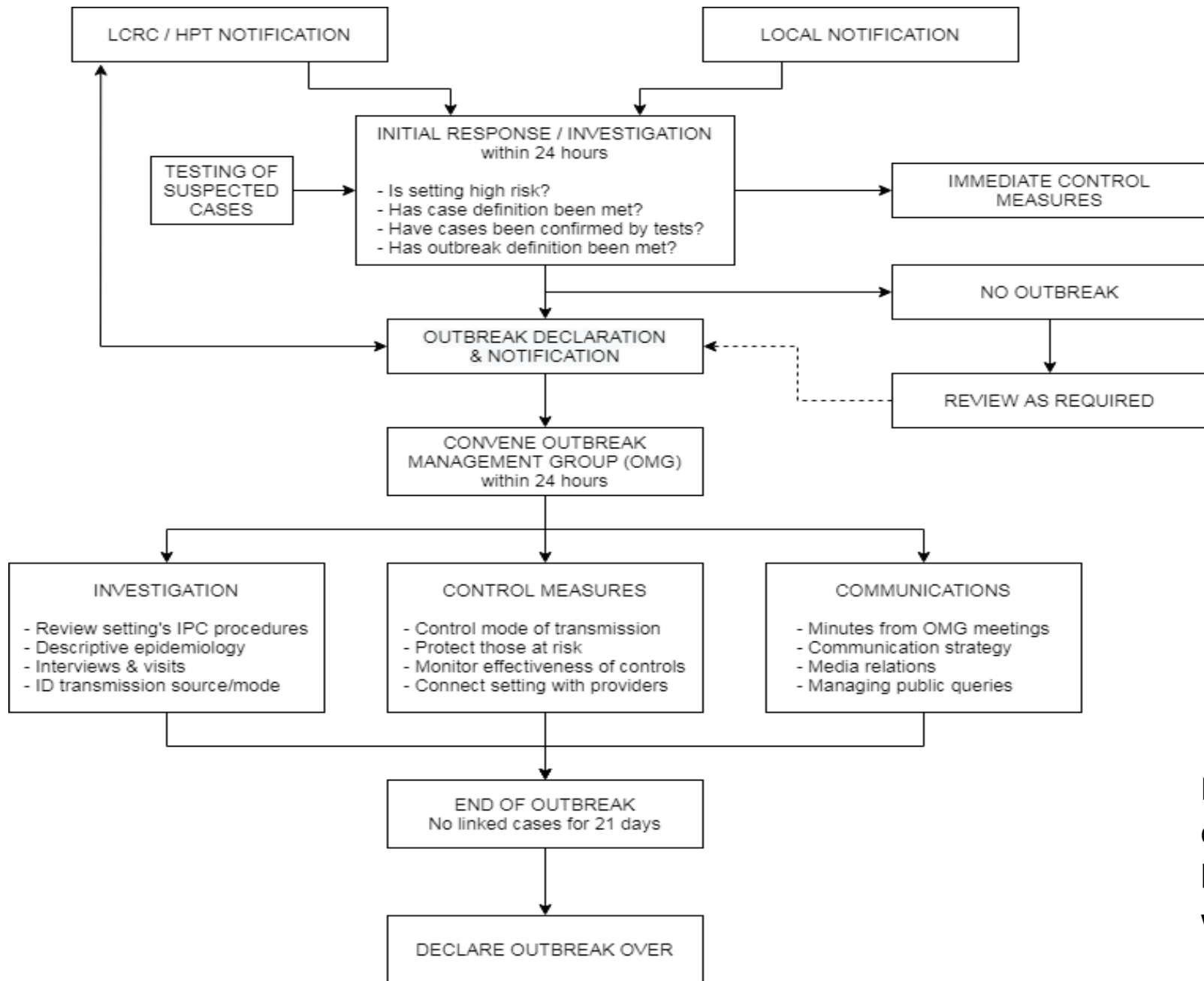
Scenario 3 – suspected cases

- A number of staff are off unwell with new cough
- The manager is aware
- An outbreak has not yet been declared

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Following the declaration that the outbreak is over additional work on debriefing and lessons learnt will be collated and shared appropriately with all involved.

Further actions

- What are our actions moving forward?
- What other considerations are there?

Some outbreak definitions

- **Single suspected/possible case** – an attendee or staff member with coronavirus symptoms (fever, persistent new cough, and/or loss of taste/smell)
- **Single confirmed case** – an attendee or staff member who has tested positive
- **Single complex case** – a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus where this is complicated factors for the setting or those involved (e.g. special educational needs)
- **Cluster** - two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 among attendee or staff in the same location within 14 days; **OR** an increase in the background rate of absence due to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
- **Contacts** - anyone in close contact with a confirmed case from 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms until they self isolate.
- **Close contact** - Face-to-face contact within one metre; or more than 15 minutes within two metres; or other household members; or travelling in a car or other small vehicle or close to them on a plane

Scenario 1

Day 1: Notified by 2 members of congregation that they have tested positive for COVID-19 and they attended the place of worship yesterday?

- What should the place of worship do?
- What info could they provide? Eg who attended the service the day before?
- How do we work together?
- What challenges might this identify?
- Do we need generic template emails?
- What support is needed around prevention and testing messaging?
- What support is needed around contact tracing?

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Further actions

- What are our actions moving forward?
- How can we actively mitigate the risks and gaps identified ?