

Southwark Borough Based Board meeting questions

Received from Irene Payne

What are the current Covid-19 test and trace arrangements for individuals and households in Southwark?

Southwark is covered by the national NHS Test and Trace programme. Southwark is also developing a local implementation of NHS Test and Trace with Public Health England / National Institute for Health Protection colleagues with a provisional go-live in September 2020.

How and where are services accessed, who provides the service, who oversees the service and who is accountable for performance?

For the national NHS Test and Trace system, if you experience coronavirus symptoms you should isolate in line with national guidance and order a test via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>, or by calling 119 if you have no internet.

If you test positive for coronavirus, the NHS Test & Trace service will send you an email or text alert, or call you with instructions of how to share details of people you have had close, recent contact with and places you have visited.

NHS Test and Trace is an outsourced service provided to the National Health Service in England, established in May 2020 to track and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is part of the National Institute for Health Protection; the service and the institute are both headed by Baroness Dido Harding.

Accountability of the national system resides with the Department of Health and Social Care.

What are the current figures for the number of tests delivered and the waiting times for results?

Information requests of this nature should be directed at the national team.

What is the reporting process for complaints or concerns?

PHE have a complaints process in place for complaints related to COVID-19:

COVID-19complaints@phe.gov.uk

How is information about test and trace communicated to the public in the borough?

Epidemiological data including surveillance statistics are managed by the Joint Biosecurity Centre nationally and via the London Coronavirus Response Cell regionally. Public information is available here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Further publicly available data are provided on Southwark Council's website: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/health-and-wellbeing-in-southwark-jsna/health-conditions-and-health-care?chapter=11>.

More general prevention messages which include information on Test and Trace are communicated across a range of channels in-line with Southwark Council's Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan, incorporating a wide range of communications work.

What is the current position in care and nursing homes?

All adult residential care homes have had access to one round of whole home testing for all staff and residents via the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

What is the target frequency of testing of residents and staff?

Residential care homes who primarily care for residents aged over 65 or with dementia can now access regular testing via DHSC. Regular testing involves weekly testing of staff and monthly testing of residents.

What is the current performance?

All our older people's care homes have now had at least one round of regular tests delivered. DHSC repeat testing has been delayed for some homes, due to supply issues. DHSC is working to get this resolved as quickly as possible.

What is the system of test and trace for Southwark schools and how will it work in practice.

Southwark is covered by the National Test and Trace Programme. Where a student or member of staff tests positive, the London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC) will work with that school to risk assess contacts and advise self-isolation and infection prevention and control requirements. Schools have also been advised to alert the

Southwark Public Health team of any positive test or suspected case to allow us to follow-up with the LCRC and ensure no positive cases have been missed.