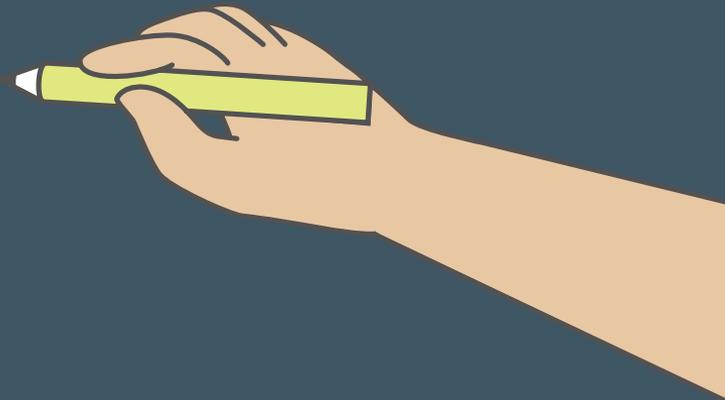


CONTACT TRACING IN GREATER MANCHESTER

General Practice Information Pack

11th July 2020



- The national NHS test and trace (T&T) service (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>) has been established to minimise community transmission of COVID-19. It is designed to:
 - Ensure that anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 can quickly be tested to find out if they have the virus.
 - Trace the close recent contacts of anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and, if necessary, notify them that they should self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus.
- The contact tracing element of the national T&T system consist of three levels:
 - **Level 3 (National)** – Call handlers who are contracted by an external provider, responsible for advising household and community contacts to self-isolate for 14 days. Most calls will be dealt with at this level.
 - **Level 2 (National)** - Dedicated professional contact tracing staff, employed by NHS professionals, responsible for interviewing the index case.
 - **Level 1 (Local)** – A collaborative GM-wide approach to delivering the local requirements of the national contact tracing system, including contact tracing and consequence management for complex settings, and providing support to vulnerable individuals, households and cohorts.
- The GM Integrated Contact Tracing Hub provides the GM-wide co-ordination of Level 1 and can be contacted via gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net



HM Government

NHS Test and Trace

Got coronavirus symptoms?

1 Start isolating

- you for **7 days**
- household for **14 days**

2 Book a test

- [NHS.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
- or call **119**

negative
for COVID-19

- Household stops isolating immediately
- You stop isolating if you feel well

positive
for COVID-19

3 Share contacts
via **NHS Test and Trace**

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

If you have been in close contact
with someone who tests positive

1 You may be alerted
by **NHS Test and Trace**

2 Isolate for **14 days**
after close contact

if you develop symptoms

3 Book a test

- Household isolates for **14 days**

negative
for COVID-19

- Household stops isolating immediately
- You complete **14 day** isolation

positive
for COVID-19

- You begin new **7 day** isolation
- Household completes **14 day** isolation

- Once an individual has tested positive for COVID 19 they are contacted and informed of the positive result. They are then contacted by a National T&T Level 2 health professional and asked to provide the details of people they have been in contact with during the 'infectious period'. Most contact tracing for individuals will be undertaken by levels 2 and 3.
- More complex cases and settings will be referred to the Level 1 GM hub (which provides an enhanced offer of support across the whole GM system).
- The Level 1 GM Hub will work with and support complex settings, such as General Practice, where a patient or staff member has tested positive for Covid-19 in order to identify potential close contacts and to advise them to self isolate for 14 days. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>)
- A GM hub contact tracer will make contact with the practice, work with the practice to identify potential 'contacts' and support the process of self-isolation. The GM hub contact tracer will provide a standard letter to the surgery containing the advice for contacts and their families. Either the surgery or a GM hub staff member can then send the letter to the identified contacts, depending on what's been agreed during discussion between the GM hub and the surgery.

- A person identified as a contact will not be tested unless they develop symptoms. If a contact should develop symptoms, then they should arrange to be tested via NHS UK or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access. This would also apply to any household member of the contact who develops symptoms. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> / <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>
- A GP setting may require additional support in relation to consequence management and business continuity and this can be provided by the local CCG or locality contact tracing SPOC (see slide 9).
- General Practice staff who have had close recent contact with someone who has COVID-19 **must** self-isolate if the NHS test and trace service advises it.
- Protecting staff, patients and the wider public is our priority and achieving this requires a timely and comprehensive approach. In some circumstances you will become aware of a positive test result in advance of it progressing through the national T&T service and into the GM hub. If this occurs the surgery can contact the GM Hub (gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net) directly alongside their locality SPOC (see slide 9) and we can start working together sooner to trace contacts and put an appropriate plan of action in place.
- If you want to get started on the process ahead of being contacted by the GM hub you can and a list of things you can start thinking about is included overleaf.

Once somebody relating to your setting has had a confirmed diagnosis, you can either wait for a call from GM hub staff who will support you through the next stages or you may wish to prepare in advance of this call by:

- a) Identifying an appropriate member of staff to work with the GM hub contact tracer.
- b) Beginning the process of identifying direct and close contacts of the case within the surgery whilst they were ill or for the 48 hour period prior to the individual falling ill.
- c) Considering the potential number of direct and close contacts and the implications of this for business continuity.
- d) Beginning to consider the potential support requirements of those who may be asked to self-isolate- do you have any vulnerable staff or patients who may require help from the local authority to self isolate?
- e) Identifying any other individuals who may be symptomatic and support them to apply for a test.
- f) Contacting your local SPOC (See Slide 9).

Household and community (i.e. non-workplace) contacts of the person with the confirmed diagnosis will be contacted separately by the national T&T service. The surgery will not need to identify these people.

Household members of an identified contact do not need to self-isolate unless the contact develops symptoms.

Individuals are potential contacts if they have been in contact with a confirmed case during the infection period which is defined as: 48 hours prior to and 7 days after the confirmed case's symptom onset or specimen collection date (if the case is asymptomatic)

There are two main types of contact that the contact tracer will seek to identify:

A) **Direct contacts** without PPE, which includes:

- Being coughed on
- Having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre
- Having unprotected skin-to-skin physical contact
- Travel in a small vehicle with the case
- Any contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact

B) **Close contact** without PPE:

- Extended close contact (between 1 and 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a case

If someone has worn PPE in accordance with current guidance on infection prevention and control they will not be identified as a contact:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

The risk of onward transmission and of having large numbers of 'contacts' in your surgery can be reduced by:

Maintaining social distancing in line with current guidance :

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

Ensuring appropriate use of PPE:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

Amending working practices and managing the work environment in line with current guidance:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>
- <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/gp-practices/covid-19-toolkit-for-gps-and-gp-practices/reducing-covid-19-transmission-and-ppe>

GM Best Practice Guide – '*Resuming Services in General Practice*'

- <https://gmprimarycare.org.uk/coronavirus/>

The GM Integrated Contact Tracing Hub (gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net) is part of a wider partnership approach involving all areas of GM, through which we deliver the level 1 requirements of the national T&T programme.

By working together we are able to offer an enhanced and consistent level of support to all parts of the GM system.

Each GM locality has a Contact Tracing Single Point of Contact and their details are below:

- **Bolton-** Covid19contacttracing@bolton.gov.uk
- **Bury-** infectioncontrolprevention@bury.gcsx.gov.uk
- **Manchester-** mhcc.communitytestinghub@nhs.net
- **Oldham-** COVID.Trace@oldham.gov.uk
- **Rochdale-** infectioncontroldutydesk@rochdale.gov.uk
- **Salford-** PHSecretary@salford.gov.uk
- **Stockport-** contact.tracing@stockport.gov.uk
- **Tameside-** covid-19@tameside.gov.uk
- **Trafford-** covidtrace@trafford.gov.uk
- **Wigan-** contact.tracing@wigan.gov.uk