**What:** A weekly message to SW Stakeholders from Contain and Joint Biosecurity Centre.

**Why**: To consolidate key information at a regional level on Covid-19 planning and prevention activity. This should help to cut down on messages from multiple channels - meaning this becomes a ‘one-stop-shop’ for things you need to hear, do, find and ask

**Who**: For SW stakeholders and partners including Directors of Public Health

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| **Weekly message w/b 12th October 2020** | |
| **Hear** | Welcome to our weekly bulletin  **National News**   * NHS Test and trace have now got **500 Coronavirus Test Centres** open across the UK. This means the average distance travelled to access a test is now 3.7 miles. What’s more motorbikes are now able to access sites. * There have been over **16,000,000 downloads** of the NHS Test and trace app. * Last Thursday (8 October), MHCLG and Home Office announced the 50/50 split of £60m funding for the police and councils to support enforcement and compliance activity. Allocations of the £30m and the new guidance which details the activities it will be fund, including the role we expect COVID-19 Secure Marshals to play, has been [published](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fcovid-19-local-authority-compliance-and-enforcement-grant&data=02%7C01%7CLouise.Barr%40communities.gov.uk%7C70ea6d4086764b8e3a5008d86adcd42b%7Cbf3468109c7d43dea87224a2ef3995a8%7C0%7C0%7C637376843963100550&sdata=8lQsoLaSmD9fKruwkcw8cNafemTUgJ3XZo82%2BOT%2BW3w%3D&reserved=0) on Gov.uk * Many of you will have noticed the guidelines on when to get a test have changed. The 8 days cut off in our Test and Trace programme reflects the latest clinical and public health advice on the most appropriate window for testing, taking into account the time we ask people to spend self-isolating. This advice is under constant review. * We reported previously that there was to be a new tiered approach and final decisions on these are now being taken. **The local risk levels** are a framework for simplifying the social distancing measures that are applied both locally and nationally. The objective of the approach is to enable HMG to standardise the interventions in place in local areas across England, making it easier to communicate which restrictions apply to the public. Local Authorities and local health leaders have been engaged in the development of the local risk level framework. The final policy for the local risk levels is not yet in place, when it is it will be mapped into the current Contain Framework. * NHS Test and Trace/JBC-Defra Wastewater surveillance pilot is showing early promise and a 6 month scale up of the programme has been agreed.  The aim of the work is to prove the science behind using wastewater-based epidemiology and develop this as a reliable tool to inform future test and trace decisions. The current pilots (including one in Exeter) have informed how the programme will now be expanded.   **Regional News**   * Regions with lower incidence levels (South East, East of England and South West) joined together this week to develop their thinking about what further preventative response approaches could be taken. Deb Lapthorne (PHE Regional Director) led this for the South West and worked alongside colleagues in the other regions and those in Contain and JBC. This work has been well received. In particular it proposed that regions would have clear influence over their testing strategy, having local level control over social distancing measures and additional resources for local contact tracing. This would be aligned to the Contain framework and the new local risk levels. * Next week we say goodbye to our Regional Convenor, Gill Steward, and welcome Richard Carr as her replacement to head up Contain in the South West. Fond farewells and huge thanks to Gill and great to have you here Richard! |
| **Do** | Our circulation list continues to expand, and we are keen to ensure that those who would find this information helpful to their role receive it so do let Anne know if you have a colleague who wishes to be added. |