**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 5th October 2020** | |
| **Hear** | Welcome to our weekly bulletin  **National News**   * **NHS Test and Trace App**   Have you downloaded the app?  [NHS COVID-19](https://covid19.nhs.uk/)  More than 14 million people and counting have now done so!   * **Latest statistics**   We have seen testing capacity continue to rise and when the new labs come on stream this will rise further.  We are receiving some positive feedback within the region that people are now finding it easier to access testing.  [NHS Test and Trace statistics](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923206/test-and-trace-week-17.pdf) published this week for 17th – 23rd September headlines are:   * 1 in 8 people in England have now been tested for coronavirus at least once since the service launched * Testing capacity for pillars 1 & 2 has increased by 25% since mid-August * 1,588,760 tests were processed in the UK in pillars 1 & 2 during week 17 – 23 September * Weekly statistics show the median distance travelled for in-person tests is now just 4.3 miles * Additional lab partnership with Birmingham University Lab announced to boost capacity by the end of October * **Self-isolation payments**   Payment implementation guidance has been issued to local authorities – included as attachment.   * **Education setting advice line**   This was set up on 17th September to relieve the pressure on regional health protection teams (HPTs). The advice line is open 7 days a week for early years, schools and further education settings. In the week 17 – 21 September received over 3000 calls. HPTs nationally have reported a reduction in calls received about single uncomplicated cases in educational settings.   * **Supported Living/Extra Care**   In July Local Authorities were asked to submit a list of settings which met certain criteria, that provided supported living/extra care. The deadline for updating these returns is **7th October** following which a single round of tests will be dispatched w/b 12th October. This will enable us to establish an understanding of prevalence of COVID 19 which will inform future policy direction.   * **New tiered framework**   Proposals for a new three tier social distancing framework are being finalised, they will be taken to GOLD next Wednesday and likely to come into effect from the following week.  This will comprise a three tier system for local alert levels of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) for the effective management of risk.  Local alert level 1 will be the baseline, the minimum level of restriction applicable to all of England.  Local alert level 2is triggered in geographical areas or nationally when there has been a rise in transmission, which cannot be contained through local responses.  Local alert level 3is triggered in geographical areas or nationally when Alert Level 2 measures have not contained the spread of the virus, or where there has been a significant rise in transmission.  Each level will have guidelines and regulations applicable to it. Research tells us that people would welcome a clearer and simpler structure to the advice and rules that they should follow.  (For information there is currently an interactive [map](https://visual.parliament.uk/research/visualisations/coronavirus-restrictions-map/?long=-0.8679199218750001&lat=52.7695392206731&zoom=6&showmore=0) showing restrictions at the moment.)  **Regional News**  **LTS expansion**  As reported in last weeks bulletin plans to expand the number across the region are progressing. We are working at pace to get proposals agreed for sites so that we can have a network across the south west increasing the publics accessibility to testing.  **Universities**  We have seen outbreaks within some of our universities in the region and the regional coordinating group has been swift to deploy MTUs in response. Linked with the above item we are working hard to get LTS in place as a priority (if not already there) near our universities to ensure we can continue to mobilise our MTUs elsewhere as needed.  **Antibody testing**  On Monday (28th September) Care Home Managers in our region were encouraged to ask their staff to participate in the antibody testing programme, part of a national project to understand more about prevalence of COVID 19. Staff were asked to apply for home tests -  <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-antibody-test>.  **Gill Steward** (Contain) and **Sandra Armstrong** (JBC) South West Lead |
| **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. |
| **Find** | **Attachments this week:**  (Self-isolation) Payment implementation guidance for local authorities V2 30th September |