

## Southend-on-Sea Case study - Care Setting Sector Learning from Covid-19

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The SARS-CoV-2 second wave had a significant impact on care settings and the capacity of Public Health England (PHE) to manage outbreaks was significantly decreased. PHE was devolving roles and responsibilities to the Local Authority and there was a need to develop and review systems to collect the data and standardise the processes locally.

A series of tools and forms were pooled together to develop an outbreak collection tool to be used for care home outbreaks, as there is no access to HPZone, the PHE record keeping system.

An IMT is a meeting of professionals called together to collate a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the circumstances of an incident or an outbreak. An IMT provides support and collaboration for the setting whilst ensuring appropriate challenge and scrutiny of the evidence. An IMT keeps the safety of residents and staff at the centre of the meeting and provides a safe space for sharing of information and concerns.

### Incident Management Teams (IMTs) Tools

A selection of tools have now been developed, using PHE templates and learning gained throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Learning has been overlapped and applied as it developed and this has been a dynamic and iterative process.

Examples are two tools, that are now available in 365 format to digitally collect outbreak information from a home. It also contains 8 recommendations (Top tips) for good practice. There is an Outbreak Checklist for homes preparing for IMTs and Short form for a home with a small outbreak that requires oversight and intervention but not at IMT level. These tools are used as a follow up to the PHE initial risk assessment and use the initial PHE checklist. All tools are under constant review for new learning.



Short%20Outbreak%  
20Checklist%20(Worst%20Full%20version



Outbreak%20Checkli



IMT%20Meeting%20  
Agenda%20Template.



IMT%20Meeting%20  
Notes%20Template.d



Bharat's Top  
Tips.odt

### Next steps - Desk top exercises

The learning from the IMTs is being collated into desk top exercise for management of outbreaks in care settings.

## **Strategic Learning and Impacts**

The wider learning and the overarching impacts of care home outbreaks locally will be looked at using a Deep Dive approach. The review of excess deaths and a quality review of local process will identify areas of good practice as well as where there may be ongoing gaps moving forward. It is important to learn where we can, to prevent serious illness and harm in the future.