



North Tyneside Council

Council

To All Members of the Council

Wednesday, 11 March 2020

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside to be held in **Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY** at **6.00 pm** on **Thursday, 19 March 2020** for the transaction of the following business.

Agenda
Item

Page(s)

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and receive information about it.

North Tyneside Council wants to make it easier for you to get hold of the information you need. We are able to provide our documents in alternative formats including Braille, audiotape, large print and alternative languages.

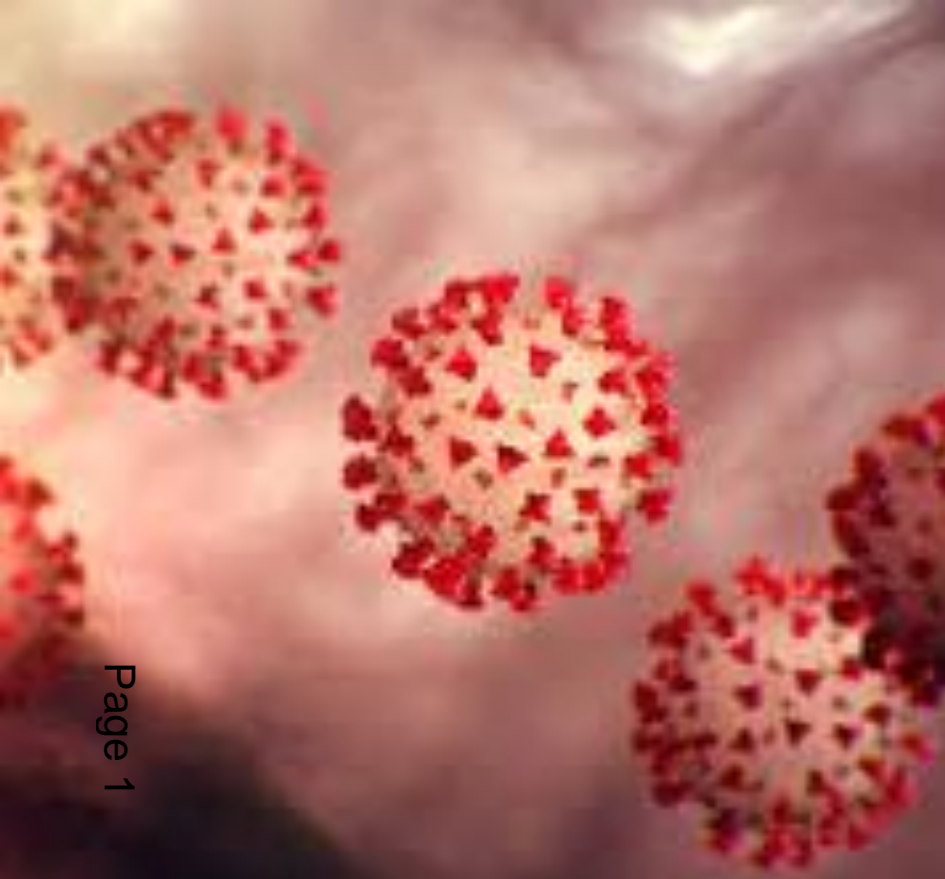
For further information please call 0191 643 5358.

Contact Officers

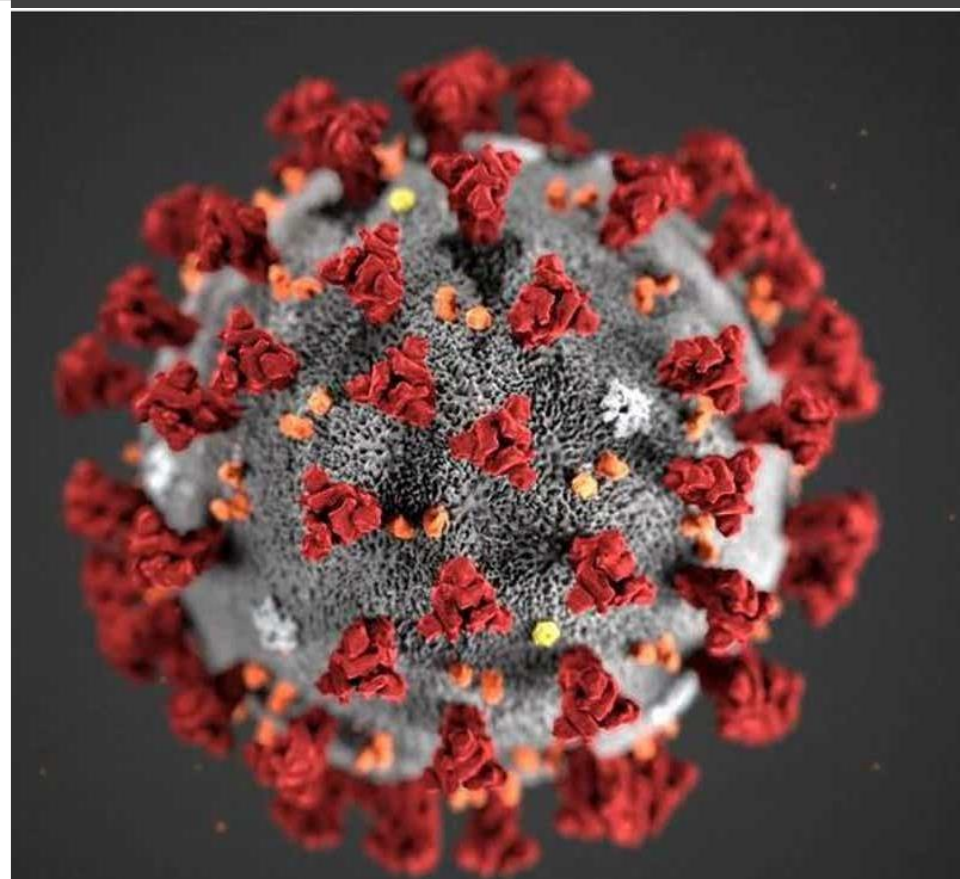
David Brown (0191) 643 5358

Paul Wheeler (0191) 643 5318

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Coronavirus Disease (COVID 19)

North Tyneside Council Response



North Tyneside Council

Agenda Item 4

What we would like to cover

- Local, regional and national planning
- Our strategic objectives
- The current Public Health picture
- Planning and Preparedness
- Issues for Members
- Next steps



Local, regional and national planning

- Locally; our Emergency Planning
- Regionally; Local Resilience Forum, 12 Chief Executives
- Nationally; 9 regions, COBR(A)



Our strategic objectives

- Calm and resilient leadership
- Follow national guidance
- Reflect the current context; slow the speed of infection, flatten the curve
- Protect the vulnerable
- Protect our staff
- Support the Borough by delivering essential services and working in partnership with businesses and the CVS



The global picture

Global

- WHO declared pandemic on 11th March 2020
- The first 3 major outbreaks outside China were in South Korea, Iran, Italy
- There is now a major outbreak across Europe as a whole
- 191,127 confirmed cases and 7807 deaths reported across 159 countries



The global picture

National

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- Risk level for UK was raised by the Government from moderate to high on 12th March 2020
- Since then the UK Government has moved from the contain to delay stage
- 56,221 people have been tested,
- 2,626 recorded confirmed cases but this is a significant underestimate real number is much higher
- 103 deaths to date



What is Covid 19?

- The virus causing Covid 19 is referred to as SARS-CoV-2
- The associated disease is referred to a coronavirus disease 19 or COVID-19
- Coronaviruses are common across the world
- This is a new coronavirus that causes infectious respiratory illness
- The lack of immunity in the population means it has the potential to spread extensively



How does Covid 19 spread in the population?

- It is thought to be spread from person to person by cough droplets or sneeze droplets
- Droplets fall on people in the near vicinity and can infect another person if it makes contact with membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth
- Touching or shaking the hand of an infected person and then touching the mouth, eyes or nose without first washing hands can spread the infection
- Touching other surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching the mouth, eyes or nose without first washing hands can spread the infection



The average number of people that one person with a virus infects, based on the R0 scale

COVID-19: 2–2.5

Infected person

Average people infected



H1N1: 1.2–1.6

Infected person

Average people infected



Ebola: 1.6–2

Infected person

Average people infected



Who is most at risk?

- Individuals of any age can acquire the infection
- Adults of middle age and older are most commonly affected
- Older age is associated with increased mortality
- Symptomatic infection in children appears to be uncommon
- Minimal information about the infection in pregnancy
- Health care workers and carers are at increased risk



What are the symptoms of Covid 19?

- Incubation period is within 14 days
- Most cases develop symptoms between 4 to 5 days after exposure
- Symptoms include a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or flu-like symptoms
- Current evidence suggests that most cases appear to be mild
- Asymptomatic infections have been reported



What are the symptoms of Covid 19?

- Causes more severe symptoms in:
 - Older people
 - Those with weakened immune systems
 - Those with long term conditions such as diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease
- Symptoms that do occur in children reported to be mild
- Most cases resolve within 7 days of symptoms starting



What to do if someone has symptoms?

- Stay at home for 7 days if you develop:
 - a high temperature
 - a new continuous cough
- Use paracetamol not ibuprofen
- If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, **all household members must stay at home for 14 days**
- The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house becomes ill



What to do if someone has symptoms?

- Anyone in the household who subsequently displays symptom stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appear, regardless of point they were at in the original 14 day isolation period
- Move vulnerable individuals out of your home or stay away from them as much as possible
- Those with symptoms can return to work after 7 days if there is no high temperature, but the cough may persist



Stay at home advice for those with symptoms

If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, do not leave your home for 7 days from when your symptoms start:

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- Stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home if possible
- Sleep alone, if possible
- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
- Stay away from vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, as much as possible



What is the UK Government's Strategy?



Planning assumptions Worst case scenario

80% infection attack rate

50% with clinical symptoms,
vast majority will be mild

- 30% of those with symptoms will require some assessment by a health professional
- 4% of those with symptoms will require hospital care
- 1% of those with symptoms will require the highest level of critical care

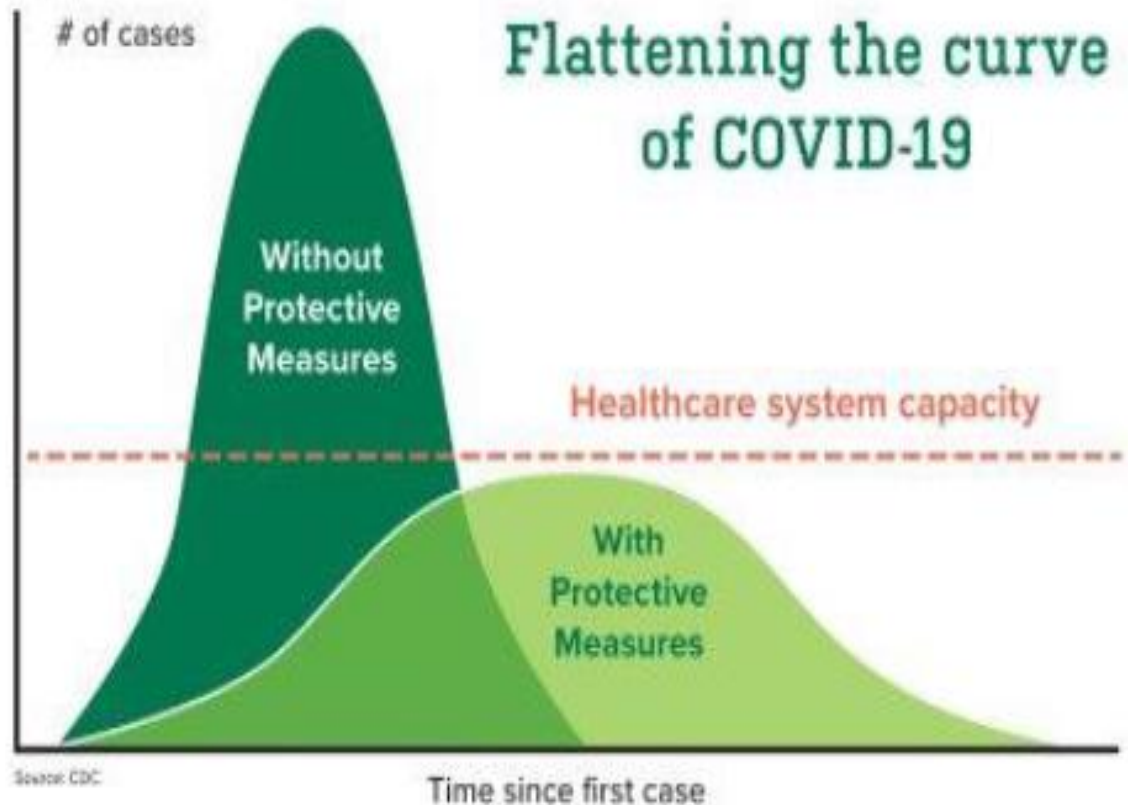
1% infection fatality rate (from 0.01% aged 0-9 years to 8.76% in those 80+)

Two key approaches

1 MITIGATION

Slowing the spread of the disease and reducing the peak of the healthcare demand while protecting those at most risk of infection

- Isolating suspected cases
- Household quarantine
- Social distancing for vulnerable people



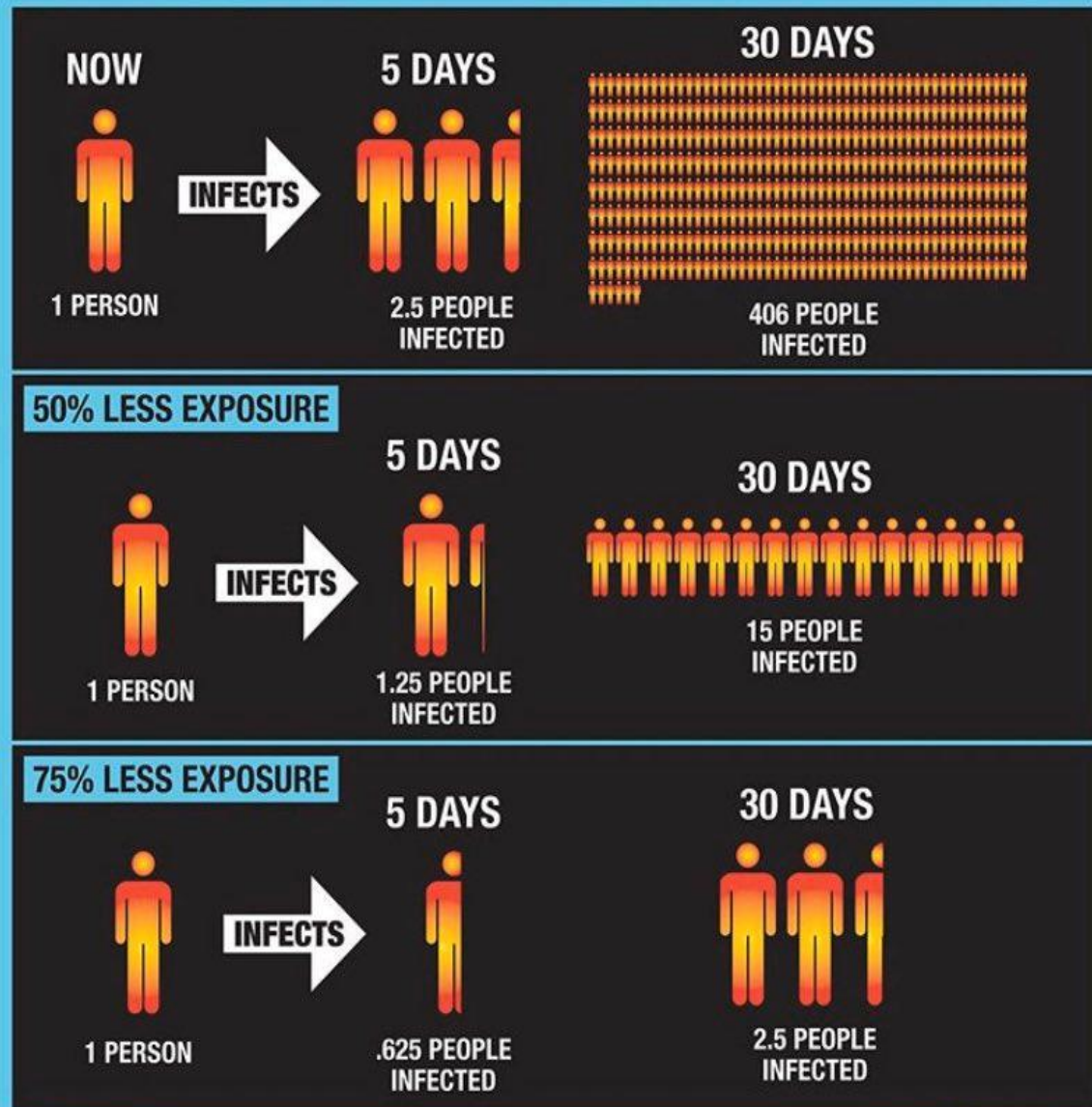
Two key approaches

2. SUPPRESSION

Reducing the epidemic growth and reducing the number of cases to low levels through social distancing measures across the whole population including the closure of schools and universities.

Maintain the situation until a vaccine is available

THE POWER OF SOCIAL DISTANCING



Current advice: social distancing

- 70 years or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- 0-69 years with an underlying health condition
- Pregnant women
- People at particular risk due to more complex health problems



Summary of current advice on social distancing

Group/ Action	Wash hands more often	Household isolation for 14 days*	Self - isolation for 7 days**	Social mixing in the community***	Having friends and family to the house	Use remote access to NHS and essential services	Vary daily commute and use less public transport	Home working
0 – 69	Yes	Yes	Yes	Advised against	Advised against	Advised	Advised	Advised
70+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Any age Member of vulnerable group with an underlying health condition ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Pregnant women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Those with serious underlying health conditions	As above, but further bespoke guidance will be provided by your GP next week							

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



North Tyneside Council strategic planning and preparedness

- Strategic ERLG Covid-19 established
- A Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) meets daily due to the dynamic situation.

Strategic priorities:

- Calm and resilient leadership
- Follow national guidance
- Reflect the current context: slow the spread of infection, flatten the curve
- Protect the vulnerable
- Protect our staff
- Support the Borough by delivering essential services and working in partnership with business and the CVS



Planning assumptions – worst case

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21% of the workforce may be absent in the peak weeks.



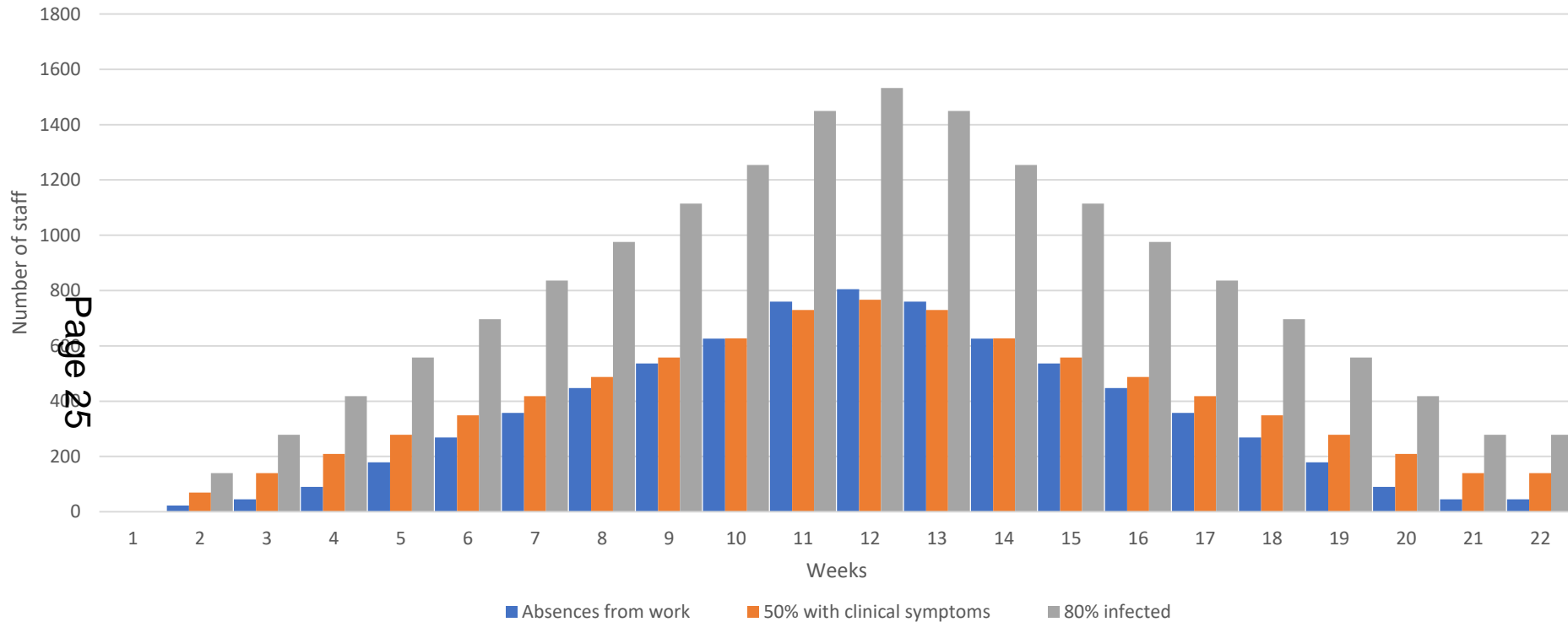
50% of the workforce may require time off at some stage over the entire period of a pandemic - figure higher if schools were closed.



Average duration of absence suggested is 14 days.



North Tyneside Staff - Planning Assumptions COVID-19



Decisions to date

Priority services:

- Support to the vulnerable
- Public Health and hygiene
- Revenues, benefits and payment of regular and new support
- Dignified and respectful bereavement services
- Communication and local leadership



Decisions to date

As of today we have closed:

- Battle Hill Library
- Cullercoats Library
- Forest Hall Library
- Howdon Library
- Monkseaton Library
- Shiremoor Library
- Wideopen Library
- (Tynemouth Library closed recently for redevelopment, but the replacement mobile bus will now be withdrawn as part of the package of measures).



Decisions to date

Sport and leisure facilities (and activities) include:

- Waves Leisure Pool
- Tynemouth Pool
- Hadrian Leisure Centre
- The Lakeside Centre
- The Parks Sports Centre
- Whitley Bay Mini Golf Course
- Shiremoor Adventure Playground
- All outdoor sports facilities
- All Active North Tyneside activities



Decisions to date

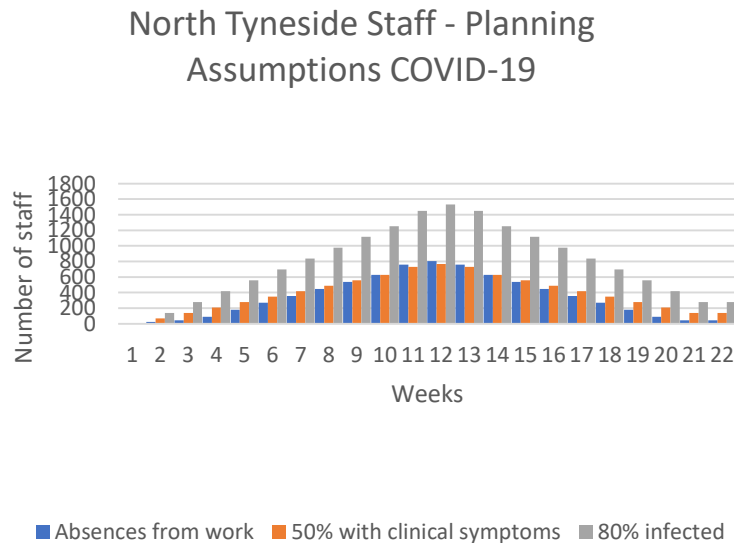
Events:

- The North Tyneside 10k Road Race has been postponed
- Tynemouth Food Festival has been postponed
- We are reviewing planned activities for the celebration of VE Day on 8 May and these are likely to be cancelled.
- The visitor centre at St Mary's Lighthouse will be closed as will the borough's museums at Segedunum and Stephenson Steam Railway.
- Public performances at Playhouse, Whitley Bay will be suspended till further notice
- At this time the Mouth of the Tyne Festival planned for July 9-July-13 is not postponed at this time.



Business Continuity Planning

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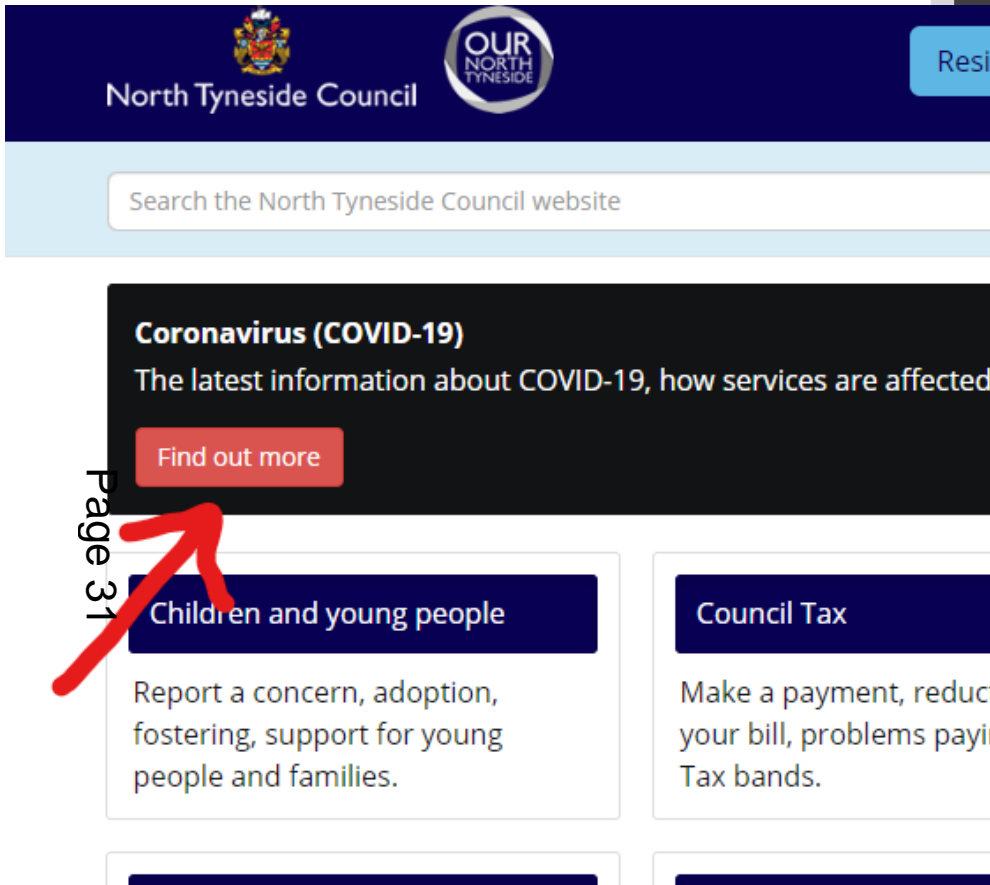
Considering the projections we continue to stress test our business continuity plans against the curve.



North Tyneside Council

Communicating with residents and businesses:

- We have created a COVID-19 landing page on the website
- A one stop shop for information with links to more detailed information internally and externally
- Social media updates residents as guidance changes and Council services are impacted.
- Members get our Situation Reports



Issues for Members during this time

- Elections and by-elections are suspended
- Face to face likely to change
- Annual Meetings potentially suspended
- Other meetings potentially suspended
- Electronic meetings potentially introduced
- Some functions, different delegations
- Some functions, longer deadlines



The role of Members during this time

- The eyes and ears in our communities identifying vulnerabilities and listening to business
- Set the right example, follow the guidance
- Look after your own hygiene, health and loved ones
- Tonight is a great example, you stayed quorate, protecting those Members who are more vulnerable.
- Please be aware BAU is about to change



This is an unusual emergency

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It will last many
months



Please look after
your colleagues and
yourself and our
residents



Remember, community
leadership is important



North Tyneside Council

Thank you



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