**Gold Brief – End of COVID-19 Command Mode and Standing down of Prisons COVID-Gold Command 23.05.22**

With immediate effect following transition from the National Framework exit, we have ended COVID-19 Command mode and returned to management mode. With this the current Prison COVID Gold Command has stood down. As we move forward following exit from the National Framework and Command Mode, decision making returns locally and to the management line.

Support with managing COVID-19 outbreaks will still be available to you should you need it via a dedicated Covid-19 National Operations Team who will provide advice when needed and where necessary, manage system-level pressures, changes and respond to escalating risk. [COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance1@justice.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance1@justice.gov.uk) remains and will be monitored for queries. PGD offices have direct contact with the Operations Team as do NIMU should a high-risk outbreak require further support. The Health Liaison service will continue to provide national support to any Outbreak Control or Incident Management Team which is called and can be contacted through [health@justice.gov.uk](mailto:health@justice.gov.uk)

Continued [surveillance measures](https://environ-surveillance-hub.apps.alpha.mojanalytics.xyz/login) will provide critical information to Governors locally to inform decision making, and live guidance will remain available on the [Exceptional Delivery Platform page](https://pogp.hmppsintranet.org.uk/2022/05/06/post-national-framework/) including guidance should prisons need to respond quickly and re-implement control measures.

Further updates will also be published later on:

* Living with COVID Testing Strategy
* Compartmentalisation Policy and Guidance
* HR Core Guidance version 4 and HMPPS absence management strategy

As a higher risk environment HMPPS absence management is undergoing wider consultation and updates will be issued in due course.

In addition, some changes will come into effect today:

* Reverse Cohorting will no longer be expected as standard, however prisons should be prepared to reintroduce this if advised to do so through an OCT or national direction.
* Prisons should make local arrangements, from today, to deliver reception testing with just one test required for those entering prison from the community into reception prisons. Details of these arrangements were published on 19th May and are located on the platform under [Reception Testing PNF.](https://pogp.hmppsintranet.org.uk/2022/05/06/post-national-framework/)

Prisons must continue to report cases locally and consider the advice of their OCT/IMT.

Governor’s defensible decision logs must be preserved, secured, and should remain available for any ongoing scrutiny as part of the scheduled public inquiry, or other subsequent review of operations. Continued local recording and decision log use is encouraged.

Whilst we acknowledge that COVID-19 outbreaks will continue for some prisons and we may be living with COVID for some time, today marks a pivotal point in our progression. Thank you for your hard work and dedication getting to this point.

**Prisons COVID Gold**