

- surveillance and modelling to inform action at national and local level;
- monitoring the impact of social and behavioural interventions over time;
- providing expert advice to DHSC, other Government departments and scientific advisory groups, including national work to support vulnerable groups;
- supporting local forums and NHS regional hubs responsible for leading multi-agency response at local level;
- targeted contact tracing as appropriate;
- clinical diagnostic testing and genome sequencing to inform public health interventions;
- supporting and delivering evidence-based public health communications and guidance;
- public health activity at major ports as required to respond to the outbreak; and
- identifying and implementing lessons from the management of the incident both during and after the outbreak and the longer-term public health impacts of the pandemic.

PHE will need to adjust its organisational activities and resourcing of priority activities in line with the scale of the required response to COVID-19, working closely with DHSC and other partners as part of the wider health and care system. It is important that PHE continues to focus on delivering essential activities that protect and improve the public's health, including:

- essential wider health protection activities required to protect the country, including tackling outbreaks and incidents, continuing surveillance of healthcare associated infections, and responding to chemical, radiation and environmental hazards; and
- working with DHSC to deliver the Government's legal obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement, preparations required for the end of the transition period, and ambitions for the future relationship with the EU and the rest of the world. This includes: responding to, and co-ordinating the response to, public health emergencies; ensuring continuity of vaccines and countermeasures supply; developing international relationships to support the UK's public health objectives; and strengthening the UK's surveillance systems and capability to ensure public health security and protection from serious cross-border threats to health.

There are also areas where we will need PHE to maintain its preparedness and be ready to pick up the rate of action when the resource position allows, recognising that there will be limits to the progress that can be made within PHE and across the system until the immediate pressure of the COVID-19 response has receded. It will be important therefore that in planning for the recovery and renewal phase of activity, PHE is ready to move forward on our Manifesto commitments and broader priorities including: