

High level recommendations

LOCAL. The most effective implementation of FTTIS is led locally, through integrated services coordinated by Directors of Public Health. This should be embedded as much as possible within existing networks and utilise Local Authority and local health services including health commissioners, primary care, local hospital laboratories, school nurses and environmental health officers. This will ensure a robust system in place for finding cases and monitoring future upsurges in infection, and for decision making .

TRUST. The success of a FTTIS system is based on trust. This needs 1) transparency about the accuracy of the tests and how problems arising from inaccuracy are being mitigated, 2) accountability mechanisms to review evaluation and other evidence, advice on and oversight of implementation, and conducting real-time scrutiny of emerging data and policy formulation, and 3) effective community engagement to discuss implementation, problems and solutions, working in partnership with trusted local and national groups.

DATA. A rigorous system must be implemented to ensure FTTIS data flows are embedded within existing NHS, local authority and PHE systems with real time access to granular data for the local response. We recognise this requires smooth and rapid integration between currently disparate datasets. It is important to provide high quality information to the community and ensure appropriate governance and safeguards for privacy and data misuse, to ensure trust and engagement. The future application of apps must be implemented within such a framework.

FIND, ISOLATE and SUPPORT. These are critical to the success of FTTIS if reductions in infection spread are to be realised. Clear information and reassurance and must be provided to encourage those with possible COVID-19 symptoms to become tested in the easiest way (FIND). There must be facilities available for those asked to isolate including material support including food and finance, and appropriate guarantees from employers, to ensure that those in isolation are not disadvantaged. Clinical support for monitoring the health of suspected cases, cases and contacts in the community is vital.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI). A set of key performance indicators based on local data should be developed and reported weekly, including data that are timely, relevant, and useful to key stakeholders, at a sufficient level of granularity to support local decision-making. Suggested indicators are set out in this report. These data should be subject to community feedback.