



Emergency Operational Plan – Covid-19

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Covid-19 is a new respiratory virus, first noticed in December 2019, with an incubation period of at least 5 days and a probable mortality rate of 1%. The highest mortality rate is in the elderly or immunocompromised patients. No vaccine is currently available. The Government's advice is that all citizens with upper respiratory symptoms or who have been in contact with possible carriers of the virus should self-isolate for at least 14 days¹. There is the potential for all residents 'at-risk' to become socially isolated without support.
- 1.2 13.5% of Longstanton's population is greater than 65 years². There are two areas in the village with a concentration of older residents: The Dale and Brookside. Both of these areas are considered 'Sheltered Housing' but have no live-in warden. There is no other service providing regular contact or visiting to the elderly or the infirm.

2.0 Operational Activity

2.1 Longstanton Parish Council will:

- act as a community communications hub ensuring contact by phone or email with the elderly and infirm to ensure contact with health and social services
- support residents by connecting healthy volunteers able to undertake shopping or other necessary urgent external tasks for those who are housebound. These may include (but is not limited to):
 - the payment of utility bills;
 - collecting pensions from the Post Office;
 - collection of prescriptions from pharmacies and GP surgeries
 - collection of small items of shopping.

2.2 Longstanton Parish Council will urgently:

- contact local organisations, longstanding residents and Sheltered Housing officials to compile a list of residents at risk or those housebound with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses
- ask for volunteers using various methods including: website, Facebook, posters/noticeboards and direct emails who would be willing to be in contact with those who are at risk or housebound to be called upon if there is someone in need of support
- publicise a single email address and phone number for urgent support

¹ Longstanton Parish Council recommends that residents seek official guidance if they have concerns: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england> and/or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

² Taken from the 2011 Census data available at: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/population/census-2011/>



- 2.3 Residents needing help would contact Longstanton Parish Council via the phone number advertised for urgent support. In turn, contact would be made with volunteers to find someone available to assist. The chosen volunteer would make contact via phone or email (face to face contact will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes). Since many people in the target group may not use internet-based services such as email, telephone banking or internet shopping, it is likely that phone contacts will be the main mode of communication.
- 2.4 As it is not possible to eliminate the use of physical money in this situation, volunteers and residents being supported, will ensure that they wash their hands after handling any money and avoid touching their face. Additional sensible hygiene precautions should be taken, i.e. latex gloves should be worn when visiting residents for up to 30 minutes per pair of gloves. Facemasks are not necessary if recommended social distancing is observed; frequent handwashing should be practised hourly.
- 2.5 Longstanton Parish Council will collate information from volunteers with regard to their activity on a three-day cycle. Summary statistics will be available to UK authorities who will be informed of actions taken by Longstanton Parish Council. The key to the parish council's response is to provide social support without exposing healthy volunteers to increased risk of infection through their activities.
- 2.6 At all times throughout the ongoing application of this Emergency Plan, of all Data Protection laws will be adhered to.

3.0 Timescales

- 3.1 The actions will commence immediately this plan is approved by Longstanton Parish Council. The actions within this plan will be maintained for as long as there is a need for actions to continue.

4.0 Distribution

This document will be distributed to:

- All Longstanton Parish Council members
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- District Councillors Sarah Cheung Johnson and Alex Malyon
- County Councillor Peter Hudson
- CAPALC
- Willingham and Longstanton Surgeries
- All Saints Church
- Longstanton Post Office
- Longstanton Co-Op