

DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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HIGH CONSEQUENCE INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

Adopted 14th April 2020

Reviewed 9th March 2021

1. Introduction

Dalston Parish Council actively seeks to protect the Councillors, Volunteers and Staff working for and on behalf of the council and its activities. As such, and following any current Public Health England (PHE) and government guidelines, the following policy applies to any High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) as defined by PHE

This policy sets out the general principles and approach that the Parish Council will follow in respect of any HCID outbreak in the United Kingdom with an imminent threat of infection in the Parish of Dalston.

2. Scope of the policy

The main areas of concern for Dalston Parish Council with respect to HCIDs are:

- Remaining an effective council
- Safety & Health of Councillors, Contractors, Staff, Volunteers and Members of Public.

3. Activation of the policy

This policy is considered to be activated, when

- There is an active outbreak of a HCID in the United Kingdom with an imminent threat of infection in the Parish of Dalston **and**
- At least 3 councillors have requested its activation to the Chairman, and subsequently notified the clerk, or the Chairman plus 2 councillors have requested its activation to the Clerk, or its activation is resolved in a meeting of Dalston Parish Council.

OR

- The government of the United Kingdom suspends all public meetings.

4. Deactivation of the policy

This policy is considered to be deactivated, when

- When the imminent threat of infection in the Parish of Dalston has passed **and**
- A minimum of 4 councillors have requested public meetings be recommenced **and**
- The government of the United Kingdom has reinstated all public meetings.

5. Definition of High Consequence Infectious Disease

A HCID is defined as

- acute infectious disease
- typically has a high case-fatality rate
- may not have effective prophylaxis or treatment
- often difficult to recognise and detect rapidly
- ability to spread in the community and within healthcare settings

- requires an enhanced individual, population and system response to ensure it is managed effectively, efficiently and safely

The current list of HCIDs can be found at www.gov.uk

6. Matters relating to staff – The Clerk

During any active outbreak of a HCID in the UK, no appointments will be permitted at The Council Office, Forge Green, Riverside, Dalston. The clerk and assistant clerk will not come into contact with the public during working hours, at this place of work. The Council may instruct working from home, based on Government advice.

In the event of a HCID outbreak the National Joint Council for local government services (NJC) will issue guidance for employers which the council will follow.

7. Public Meetings

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1972, that council business shall be conducted at public meetings of the council and any committees. Councillors and other Volunteers can choose to not attend public meetings. As an officer of the council, the Clerk cannot choose to not attend meetings.

Due to the nature of local government and considering the Councillors and Members of Public who attend meetings, there is high percentage of attendees who would be considered “high risk”. As such, to protect the health of all attendees, public meetings are suspended during the active period of this policy.

The Local Authorities And Police And Crimes Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority And Police And Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 enable remote meetings to be held. These will be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders of Dalston Parish Council.

8. Delegated Authority

To allow the council to operate on a minimum requirement basis and fulfil its responsibility to residents, the delegation of decisions is extended to the Clerk /Responsible Financial Officer in consultation with the Chairman during a period of restricted activity declared by the Government.

9. Review of the policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.