



## COVID-19 CLINICAL SOLUTIONS

### **What did you do?**

A group of retired doctors including GPs and public health specialists have established a pilot scheme in Sheffield to demonstrate whether volunteer-led contact tracing for COVID-19 index cases can effectively give support and advice to people with COVID-19 and their contacts ([www.communitycontacttracers.com](http://www.communitycontacttracers.com)). We train, supervise and coordinate volunteers in collaboration with the local Community Development Trust (<http://heeleytrust.org>). Referrals have come mainly from local GPs, but also are open to community groups and word of mouth. A report will be published to discuss the acceptability, feasibility and efficacy of this pilot. If successful, it is hoped that it will be widely taken on by the NHS, Public Health England, and Local Authorities.

### **Who are you?**

Founders of Sheffield Community Contact Tracers:

Andy Jackson, Trust Manager, Heeley Trust  
Dr Bing Jones, former Associate Specialist in Haematology  
Dr Jack Czauderna, former GP  
Dr Jeremy Wight former Director of Public Health  
Dr Joan Miller former Consultant in Public Health  
Dr Mike Tomson, former GP and Mediciens sans Frontieres volunteer  
Dr Paul Redgrave, former Director of Public Health  
Dr Tom Heller, former GP

### **What was the problem?**

Contact tracing has become a central part of UK government strategy to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, but the establishment of official contact tracing through NHS or Local Authority officers or newly recruited staff has not yet commenced at a time of greatest need. A trial to establish whether community-based volunteers can be trained to do contact training in their own locality is underway. The experience gained and the raft of training and evaluation documents developed by this pilot project can be freely used by people who want to establish a similar service in their own community or by official services when they eventually become established.

### **What was the solution?**

The pilot aims to establish:

1. Whether it is possible to train volunteers who do not have a medical or health background to offer contact tracing to patients in the community
2. What the content of the training needs to be to do this effectively using a virtual classroom

3. Whether these volunteers can maintain contact and provide support to both the index cases and to those who are traced as contacts
4. Whether these volunteers are acceptable to the public
5. Whether these volunteers can identify and inform a meaningful number of contacts
6. Whether offering this helps people to move from a rough and ready understanding of the level of isolation that a contact should have to a more complete self isolation approach
7. Whether those who develop COVID-19 but are not ill enough to be admitted through the COVID-19 111 service will perceive benefit from this pilot project

The project has already trained a number of local lay volunteers. The new workforce has been skilled up to identify cases of COVID-19, trace close contacts, give simple instructions regarding management, and advise on isolation and quarantine. The basics of how and when to seek help from 111 or primary care has also been taught.

**Where can we find out more?**

[www.communitycontacttracers.com](http://www.communitycontacttracers.com)

Contact:

[Sheffieldcommunitytracing@gmail.com](mailto:Sheffieldcommunitytracing@gmail.com)

<https://bjgp.org>