

Civil Contingencies – how should the different institutions work together in animal disease crises?

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Civil Contingencies Act 2004

- Regional Resilience Forum, and sub-groups
- Local Resilience Forum
- Regional / Local Risk Assessments
- North West Generic Regional Response Plan
 - Activation, stand down, roles and responsibilities
- NW Exotic Animal Diseases Plan
 - Draft for consultation
 - Some further work at LRF level

Exotic animal disease plan – local response

- LDCC – SVS lead, interfaces with the Local Resilience Forum which is the recognised mechanism under CCA for multi-agency co-ordination at the local level. Depending upon the nature of the outbreak the LRF will convene or set up a Strategic Co-ordination Group
- The LRF will decide upon the scope of consequence management and the need for a Recovery Working Group.
 - Social impact
 - Health impact
 - Economic impact
 - Environmental impact
- LDCC / LRF / RWG will work in tandem. A liaison officer will be appointed.

Exotic animal disease plan – regional response

- Depends upon the scale and nature of the outbreak. RCCC may be convened, or a GO Liaison Officer may be appointed to the LDCC.
- RCCC will convene at Level 1 (overview) to ensure there is awareness, monitor the potential for spread and wider consequence management.
- If the situation escalates the RCCC will:
 - Ensure responders are aware, and have assessed levels of preparedness
 - Monitor the evolving situation within the region, provide support and also focus on consequence management and recovery issues
 - Facilitate mutual aid within the region
 - Ensure the effective flow of communications, local, regional, national
 - Ensure that the national input to recovery is co-ordinated
 - Provide, if appropriate, a regional spokesperson

Defra contingency plans


- Exotic Animal Disease – Generic Contingency Plan
 - Covers FMD, AI, ND, CSF
- Specified Type Equine Exotic Diseases Contingency Plan
 - STEED
 - Covers West Nile Virus and other encephalitidies
- Rabies Contingency Plan
- Draft plans for – Bluetongue and African Swine Fever

- The above should link with the contingency plans of other organisations, such as HPA, LA.

Defra contingency plans

- Cover command and control structures at
 - Strategic - CCC and advisory groups
 - Tactical - NDCC and Joint Co-ordination Centre
 - (The JCC co-ordinates the response of gov depts and operational partners)
 - Operational -LDCC
- Common theme in all the above is a multi-agency approach.

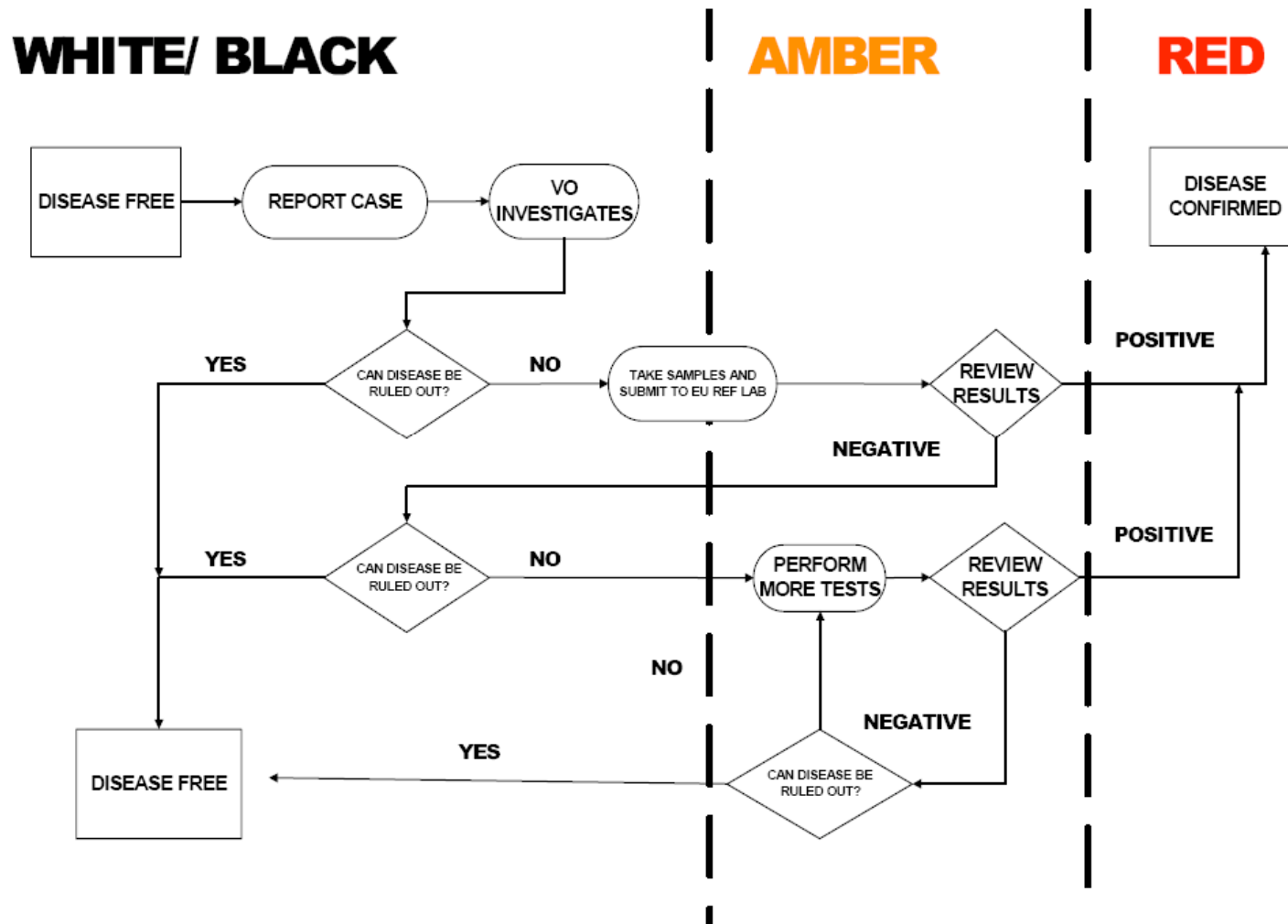
Operational level - LDCC

- SVS – ROD, DVM, DOM, LDCC teams
 - Representation from key operational partners
 - LA – TSO (AHI), EPU, possible EHOs.
 - HPA – also bring in other health professionals
 - Environment Agency
 - Gov. News Network
 - Regional Resilience Team
 - Police
 - (Army liaison)
 - Wider stakeholder engagement
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Operational level - LDCC

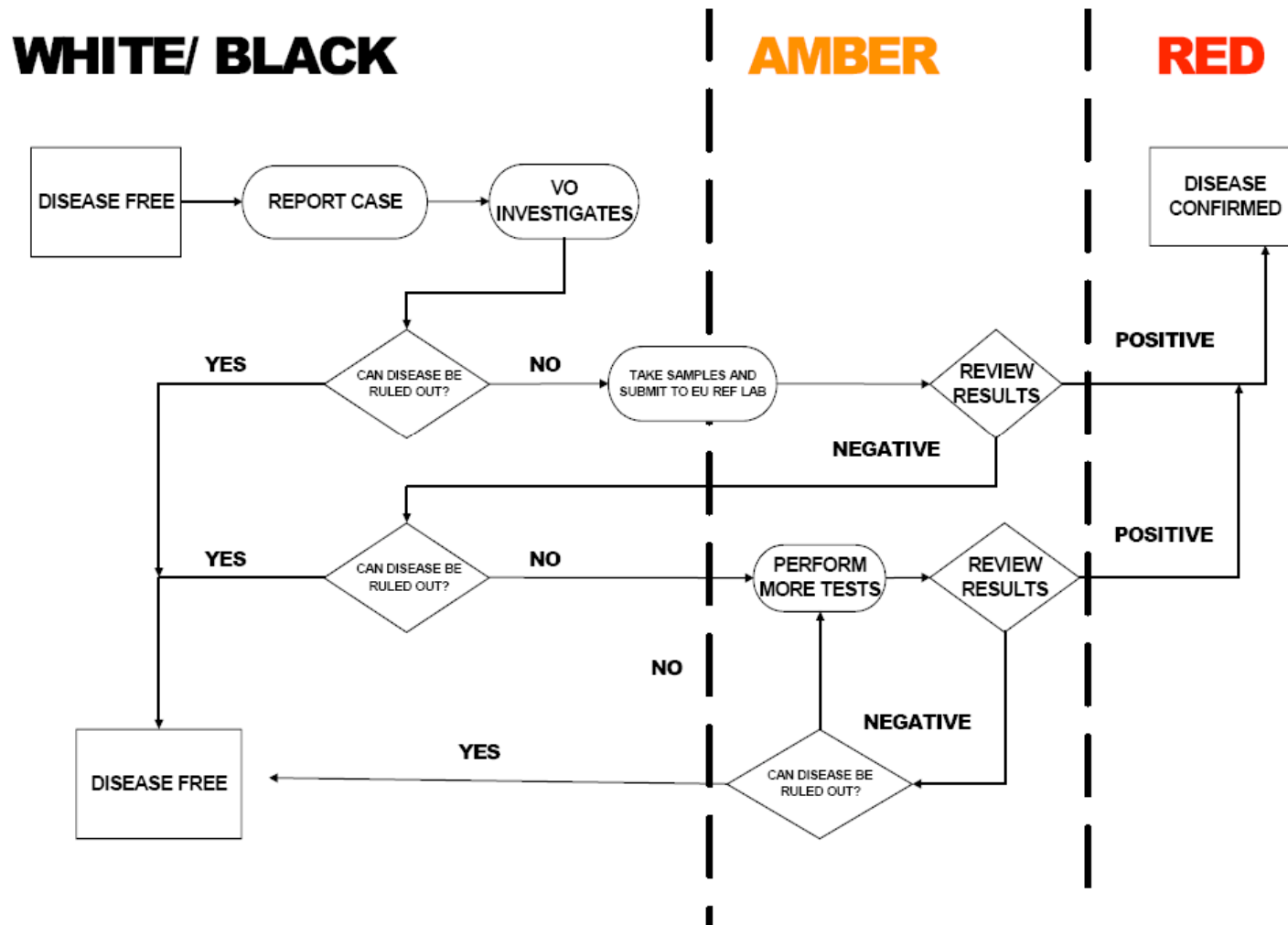
- Links with Operational Partners and other stakeholders through Civil Contingencies groups
 - Regional Resilience Forum
 - (Regional Civil Contingencies Committee)
 - Recovery Working Group
 - Local Resilience Forum
 - Regional Resilience Team
- Wider stakeholder meetings would also be convened. In the case of zoonotic diseases these would be convened by SVS/HPA/RRT acting together.

Figure 2. Alert System to indicate disease status



STATUS OF ALERT	LEVEL OF SUSPICION
White	LEVEL 0 Disease not suspected following veterinary inquiry
White (Amber for FMD only)	LEVEL 1 Lesions & clinical disease not typical – but disease can not entirely be ruled on clinical grounds
Amber	LEVEL 2 Lesions & clinical disease suggestive of disease but not entirely convincing
Amber	LEVEL 3 Veterinary staff at premises under investigation and at HQ believe from examination on clinical grounds that disease exists.
Red	LEVEL 4 As level 3 plus disease already confirmed in the country or substantial evidence that disease may have entered the country.

Figure 2. Alert System to indicate disease status



Roles and responsibilities

- SVS – lead agency on behalf of Defra
 - Investigate all suspect cases of Notifiable Disease in animals
 - Carry out disease control measures in accordance with UK and EU policy
 - Establish LDCC
 - Diagnosis, containment of disease, tracing origin and spread
 - Licensing permitted movements

Roles and responsibilities

- Local Authority
 - Animal Health and Trading Standards
 - Enforcement of animal health legislation
 - Road signs at boundary of controlled areas
 - Monitoring compliance with biosecurity measures and movement controls
 - Livestock welfare
 - Emergency Planning
 - Disseminate advice to local communities
 - Provision of contingency resources
 - Link to other parts of LA
 - Environmental Health
 - Advice on public health implications – e.g. Disposal operations
 - (STEED) vector control operations

Roles and responsibilities

- Health Protection Agency
 - Assess impact of disease control measures on public health
 - Field health-related enquiries
 - Ensure Directors Public Health and PCTs are briefed on disease control measures
 - Contribute to briefings
 - Establish incident management team (when appropriate)

Roles and responsibilities

- Environment Agency
 - Assess the risk to the environment posed by the outbreak and control measures
 - Prevent or minimise impact on the environment
 - Consider action in respect of remedial measures
 - Issue permits before waste management / disposal activities commence
 - Notify any potential or actual environmental risks

Roles and responsibilities

- Police
 - Co-ordination of emergencies support, pursuing legal entry to premises
 - Temporary closure of roads for public safety during disposal operations
 - Managing / preventing breaches of the peace
 - Supporting LA in stopping and checking vehicles in Restricted Infected Areas

Roles and responsibilities

- Government News Network
 - Provision of briefing / media expertise for the LDCC
 - Working with communications teams from Operational Partner agencies
 - Working with central communications teams to provide briefing and public communications

Roles and responsibilities

- Government Office NW – Regional Resilience Team
 - Co-ordination and resilience of government at regional level through RRF and RCCC.
 - Identify staff and other resources from Govt Depts and other agencies at regional level
 - Co-ordination of response with Local Resilience Forums

Training and exercises

- The multi-agency response will be tested at intervals by national, regional, and local exercises.
- Exercise Hornbeam tested FMD plans at national, regional, and local levels.
- Exercise Hawthorn tested Avian Influenza plans – exercise aborted due to disease in Scotland (swan)
- Local exercises are conducted by each Animal Health Office
 - Recent exercises have included Rabies, Avian Influenza
 - Next exercises are being planned for 2007, probably CSF