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Public Health Team, North Yorkshire

" Having been in public health for many years, it was never going to be a case of if we had a pandemic, but probably, when. We'd done all our major incident planning and preparation for the last two decades that I've worked in public health, or certainly in the public sector. Yet when the pandemic came, it has been quite a monumental thing, and quite unprecedented really. Whilst yes we'd had swine flu back in 2009, the size and scale of what was to come, what did come on the global scale, has been quite a moment in all our careers that I don't think any of us will forget, and we're still dealing with it of course.

I tried to really focus in those early days on testing. So, in North Yorkshire, given the diversity of our community, our geography, being rural and urban, being coastal and dale, and all of that, one size fits all wasn't going to work. If we put testing at one location as a fixed site, travelling times would have been pretty significant… The other thing we were keen to do was make sure that home testing was available as well. Given the rural nature, it was a really good option and important option. Of course, if you don't have a car and couldn't get to any testing site, then we wanted to make sure that that was well promoted too.

What are the key points in this story extract?

How does it resonate (or not) with your own experience of the COVID-19 pandemic?

ADPH
Yorkshire and the Humber

IDEAS
ALLIANCE