

## Guidance on whole care home testing for Covid-19

This is a summary of guidance sent by the Department of Health and Social Care on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 regarding the roll out of whole care home testing.

### Who is this testing for?

Care homes that primarily look after older people (over 65) or people with dementia. If a care home for older people also cares for residents under 65, all residents, regardless of age should be tested.

### Who can register care homes for whole home testing?

1. The care home manager who is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) can register online for test kits for all care home residents and staff. Care Homes should inform their Director of Public Health (DPH) that they have registered.
2. The Director of Public Health or representative can also refer local care homes in line with local prioritisation of need.

Details needed for registration include CQC care home registration number, numbers of residents and staff, and details of the referrer if completed by the DPH.

### Who can get tested using this testing provision?

- Care home residents with and without symptoms
- Care home workers **without symptoms** can be tested within the care home.  
Note: Care home workers with symptoms should be self-isolating and can access testing via the self-referral portal.

### Testing in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak

The care home manager should contact their local Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team (HPT) the first time a care home suspects a resident has symptoms. The HPT will undertake a risk assessment, provide public health advice, and arrange urgent testing of all symptomatic residents.

For all subsequent testing needed beyond the initial outbreak, the care home manager needs to inform the DPH and apply for further tests for all remaining residents and staff, through the testing service portal.

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### Care Home Manager

- Register online for test kits for all care home residents and staff.
  - Details needed for registration include: CQC care home registration number, and numbers of residents and staff.
- Inform their Director of Public Health (DPH) that they have registered online for test kits.
- Contact the local PHE HPT the first time a resident has symptoms of covid-19.
- Inform the DPH about the initial outbreak and apply for further tests for all remaining residents and staff through the testing service portal.

- Send positive test results of residents by name to their GP practice, using confidential routes such as nhs.net.

#### Director of Public Health

- Can register online for test kits on behalf of a care home for all residents and staff.
  - Details needed for registration include: CQC care home registration number, numbers of residents and staff
- Support the local coordination of testing and contribute to the prioritisation of tests
- Inform the national testing service of which care homes in their area they would want prioritised by completing the **Care Home Testing Referral Form**. Prioritisation criteria for care homes receiving tests are as follows:
  - Care homes with a new outbreak (declared after the Health Protection Team have arranged for the initial testing of any symptomatic residents).
  - COVID free care homes with over 50 beds.
  - Care homes referred by local authorities based on size (over 50 beds) and local knowledge.
- Care Homes should be listed in priority order so that deliveries can be scheduled accordingly. Completed forms should be submitted to [COVIDCareHomeTestingReferrals@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:COVIDCareHomeTestingReferrals@dhsc.gov.uk)
- Following the initial submission of the priority list of care homes, any changes to the priority list/order should be reported on a weekly basis by exception by midday each Friday.

#### **Receiving test results**

Results for residents will be sent to their respective care home manager to enable notification of the resident and their family (if appropriate).

Staff members should register the tests themselves to receive the test results directly or may choose to ask the care home to register their details.

It is currently unknown how the DPH will be informed about test results.

#### **Appendix**

1. The testing matrix for adult social care

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/884284/Adult\\_social\\_care\\_COVID-19\\_testing.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884284/Adult_social_care_COVID-19_testing.pdf)

2. Portal to register for coronavirus tests for care homes

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-care-home>

3. Contact for care homes if further support and guidance is required

For questions about test kit registration, contact the Coronavirus Testing Call Centre on 0300 303 2713. It is open from 07:00 to 23:00 every day.