

Dear Provider,

WEBPAGE REMINDER - Please check <http://valuecroydon.com/support-for-care-homes-during-covid-2-2> for all the latest guidance and information for care homes during Covid-19.

THURSDAY'S CARE HOME INFORMATION SESSION – This afternoon's information session will focus on the Infection Control Fund with tips about how to spend it. Do join at 1pm via this link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

URGENT CORONAVIRUS TESTING SWAB RECALL - Please read the information below from DHSC carefully and do not conduct any coronavirus testing in your care home until you have checked your swabs are not affected. You should also have received an email from DHSC regarding this information.

Requests for replacement swabs should be forwarded to:
COVIDCareHomeTesting@dhsc.gov.uk

If you have received Kingfisher (non Randox) test kits from the DHSC National Testing Programme, to conduct whole home testing in your care home. It has come to our attention that one of the batches of swabs in circulation does not meet our safety standards (brittle stems at risk of snapping whilst being used) and should be recalled immediately.

The swabs in question are Citotest swabs, **batch number 200032**. All other swab types, including Citotest swabs with different batch numbers, are not impacted and are safe to use.

DHSC ask that you immediately check all swabs that you still have in your care home, to see if they are from this affected batch. A photo of an example swab from this batch is attached (**attachment 1**), so you can see what it looks like and how to identify the 200032 batch. Please check the batch number which is the 6 digit number printed in black next to the logo "LOT" (which indicates which production batch the swab is from). This number is circled on the photo attached.

If you **do** have any unused swabs from batch 200032 then you **must not use them for testing**. Please stop all testing and dispose of any swabs with the batch number 200032. If you require replacement swabs to complete your first round of whole home testing, then please forward this email to COVIDCareHomeTesting@dhsc.gov.uk with the information in the table below completed:

Care home name	
Care home ID number	
Care home address (including postcode)	
Number of impacted swabs disposed	
Number of replacement swabs required to complete whole home testing	

Unused swabs can be disposed as general waste. If you have used any affected swabs without incident then please do not worry. Used swabs can still be collected for processing as per normal arrangements, however, please do not conduct any further testing using these swabs.

If you have previously used swabs from the affected batch to carry out whole care home testing, we can assure you that the recall of these swabs **does not** affect the validity of the test results that you have received.

If you **do not** have any of the affected swabs then you do not need to take any action. You can continue your testing programme as planned and you can disregard this email.

If you have any further questions please join the DHSC daily care home testing webinars, you can sign up at:

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/2375949/724EF6345473A192F6B9C19334699A29/1077953>

CAPACITY TRACKER MASTERCLASS - NHS London region and NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECSU), invite Care Home Providers to join a live webinar session introducing the Capacity Tracker online tool on Friday 19th of June 2020, 1100-1200

What is Capacity Tracker?

- A secure national online tool to be used as the single way to report your available beds, staffing or supply needs during the COVID-19 response period

Why should I attend?

- As part of the COVID-19 response, all care homes are now required to report daily on their bed vacancies and Business Continuity through Capacity Tracker. This is also a requirement of the Infection Control Fund.
- **This one-hour webinar session will be a great opportunity to learn more about Capacity Tracker. The session will cover the following topics:**
 - **Registration:** How to register on Capacity Tracker
 - **Updating:** Updating your information on Vacancies and Business Continuity (including COVID-19 status, outbreaks, admissions, workforce, and PPE)
 - **Benefits:** How NHS and Local Authority colleagues use the information you input to support your care home
 - **Infection Control Fund:** How to complete questions on Capacity Tracker in order to be eligible for Infection Control Fund money
 - **Resources:** Resources available to support you
 - There will also be an opportunity to ask questions

You can access the webinar by clicking on the following link:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

+44 20 3794 0272 United Kingdom, London (Toll)

Conference ID: 973 998 951#

For further information on this webinar please contact enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk

PPE - Wherever possible we would encourage you to continue to try and secure PPE supplies through your usual supply routes in the first instance. Further information on sourcing PPE and emergency supplies, and also guidance for homes with 24 beds or fewer can be found on the webpage, please click [here](#).

TESTING

Online portal for care homes to arrange Covid-19 testing

- All symptomatic and asymptomatic care home staff and residents in England are now eligible for testing, with priority for those in homes that look after the over-65s. Please click [here](#) for further information. **Please let us know when you have registered for the portal and as soon as you get the results by emailing us on enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk**

Testing someone who has impaired decision making capacity without their consent

- Information on looking after people who lack mental capacity can be found on DHSC covid-19 guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-looking-after-people-who-lack-mental-capacity/the-mental-capacity-act-2005-mca-and-deprivation-of-liberty-safeguards-dols-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>
- Please click [here](#) for further information on testing and what to do if your home as a coronavirus outbreak.

Covid-19 mobile testing unit

- The government mobile testing unit will be back in Croydon on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd June 2020 for key workers whether symptomatic or asymptomatic. The unit will be based outside the back of Fairfield Halls via the Barclay Road slip road entrance. This unit can be walk up or drive thru. The site will be open from 10.30 and 15.30 **for booked appointments only** via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- **Future NHS** – Future NHS (<https://future.nhs.uk/about>) is open to anyone working in or for health and social care. The platform supports many different organisations (care home providers) and health and social care colleagues, to connect and collaborate more effectively. Once you are signed up you will be find information and discussion topics from other care homes for example on best practice in care homes under Covid 19 restrictions or infection control grants.
- **Prince's Trust workforce project** - Provides care homes a pool of ready candidates for virtual interviews, for various positions within a care home. If you are interested in receiving support from this scheme, please contact Andre Chagwedera (Andre.Chagwedera@swlondon.nhs.uk). **The next scheduled day for recruitment is 30th July.** To avoid disappointment, please contact Andre asap so that he can explain the process and help get you booked in.
- **Croydon Talking Therapies (IAPT)** is providing **immediate support to front line/key workers** in the Borough. Simply call 020 2338 4040 and *state you are a staff member* and you will be connected to a clinician who you can talk to, confidentially, about how you're feeling.

WEBINARS AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS/TRAINING

- **FREE bite size sessions** aimed at a number of professional groups (including GPs and care homes) are also being planned by St Christopher's. For further information please click here: https://www.stchristophers.org.uk/stc_education_event/virtual-learning/

For further information on other training please click [here](#).

Next Info Session on Teams – We look forward to seeing you at the next information session on **today at 1pm**. If you have any queries please contact enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk

Thanks again for you and your carers great support of our vulnerable residents.

Care Home Commissioning Team