

29th May 2020

Dear Provider,

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

Please click [here](#) for further information on testing and what to do if your home has a coronavirus outbreak.

Testing for staff – various options are available to you for your staff or for members of their households. Further information can be found on our support webpage by clicking [here](#).

Covid-19 mobile testing unit – the government mobile testing unit will be back in Croydon on Sunday 31st May and Monday 1st 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>

Symptomatic care home staff should follow national guidance on self-isolation. Please click [here](#) for the latest guidance.

Track and Trace – Care home workers that are identified by the track and trace team will be contacted by Public Health England and advised what action to take. The latest guidance for Health Care Workers and others working in health and social care setting can be found [here](#) (COVID-19: management of exposed staff and patients in health and social care settings).

OTHER INFORMATION

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 can be found on the webpage, please click [here](#).

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- **COVID-19 Counter Fraud & Cyber Crime Advice** - Care Homes are being targeted with an increasing number of frauds and cyber-crime incidents. Please click [here](#) for the guide written by the National Investigation Service (NATIS) provide some insight into the specific threats that are known to have been targeted at Care Homes during COVID19.
- **Financial Support - The Care Workers' Charity** - provide crisis grants to people who have worked in a paid role in the UK's care sector and are involved in or support the provision of care. This includes people who have been involved in residential social care, home care, supported living care or day care. Staff can apply for financial support from: <https://www.thecareworkerscharity.org.uk/>

- **Care Homes workforce schemes** - taking place in SWL to support care comes to address staff shortages (e.g. due to vacancies or staff absence). The following is a brief overview of the schemes available for offer to SWL care homes:
 - **Prince's Trust workforce project:** Provides care homes a pool of ready candidates for virtual interviews, for positions including Health Care Assistant roles, Volunteer Roles, Manager Roles, Administrative Roles, Kitchen staff, Cleaning staff and potentially any other vacancies care homes have.
 - **London Workforce Hub:** A scheme which can fast-track healthcare professional roles (e.g. nurses) into care homes where required
 - **Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Hub:** A scheme which can fast-track AHP roles (e.g. psychologists, occupational therapists, physios/rehab staff) into care homes where required

For all schemes, staff are available for permanent, short term or Bank roles.

If you are interested in receiving support from these schemes, please get in contact with Andre Chagwedera (Andre.Chagwedera@swlondon.nhs.uk) who is available to provide this support.

WEBINARS AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS/TRAINING

- **St Christopher's will be hosting a free webinar 'Re-use of medicines in care homes' on Monday 1st June, 2-3pm -.** The webinar will provide simplified guidance on how to run a safe and effective medicines re-use scheme in care homes during the coronavirus outbreak

To register your place and for further information please follow this link:

<https://www.stchristophers.org.uk/course/reuse-medicines-webinar>

- **FREE bite size sessions** aimed at a number of professional groups (including GPs and care homes) are also being planned. The following sessions are available so far:
 - Advance Care Planning
 - Challenging Conversations
 - Terminal Agitation
 - Wellbeing, resilience and self-care (includes 4 short videos) For further information please click here: link to webpage:
https://www.stchristophers.org.uk/stc_education_event/virtual-learning/

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

- **Care Homes Response Group** - We are looking for regional managers/care home managers to join a recently established Croydon Strategic Care Homes group. This group meets via Teams weekly, usually on a Tuesday for 90 mins. If you are interested in joining or have any questions please email edward.humphreys@croydon.gov.uk

Next Info Session on Teams – We look forward to seeing you at the next information session on **Thursday 4th June 2020 at 1pm**. If you have any queries please contact enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk

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.

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

Care Home Commissioning Team