

Dear Care Home Manager

Testing for COVID -19 in Care Homes

You will be aware of the revised guidance on testing for COVID-19 in Care Homes. This includes

- 1. Undertaking enhanced outbreak investigation in all care homes where there are cases of COVID:** We now intend to undertake enhanced outbreak investigation in all care homes where there are cases of COVID - this will involve testing, subject to individuals' consent, all residents and staff, whether or not they have symptoms.
- 2. Comprehensive surveillance testing in care homes where there are no cases:** Sampling testing should be started in care homes where there are no cases. By definition this will also include testing residents and staff who are not symptomatic.
- 3. Testing across care home groups:** Where a care home with an outbreak is part of a group or chain, and staff may still be moving between homes, we expect urgent testing to be carried out in any linked homes.

The NHSGGC Public Health team is working with GPs and HSCPs in Greater Glasgow and Clyde to organise how we can work with you to meet these requirements.

Resident testing in homes with at least one case of COVID-19

We plan to utilise the existing system for testing of symptomatic care home residents. This involves staff in nursing homes undertaking testing and testing teams undertaking the tests in residential homes and also supporting nursing homes. Testing should be done with the consent of the resident or their guardian.

The additional testing of asymptomatic residents and staff applies only to Care Homes with at least one case of COVID-19 or Care Homes in the same group.

Rather than contacting the GPs for all your residents, you will now be able to organise testing for all your asymptomatic residents and staff directly. This is described in the flow chart enclosed (appendix 1).

We will firstly organise testing in care homes with their **first new confirmed case from Wednesday 6 May 2020**.

Testing of asymptomatic residents and staff in Care Homes with existing outbreaks will be booked for testing based on the date **their most recent new confirmed case**. Care Homes with the most recent new cases will be booked first to maximise the preventative aspects of this testing programme.

When you contact the local HSCP Testing hub to organise testing of asymptomatic residents and staff, you should know the date of the most recent confirmed case. You will also require to have an up to date list of residents' details, CHI numbers and GP with whom they are registered available for the testing hub so that appropriately labelled test kits can be arranged.

Results will be reported back to you as well as to the GP with whom the resident and the respective staff member is registered. Once results are available to you, we will ask you to collate these results and report them in your daily calls with the Local Authority/HSCP commissioning managers and also to the Public Health team for discussion on management action.

Staff testing

Symptomatic Care Home staff or their symptomatic household contacts should refer to testing through the existing process (<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/health-issues/covid-19-coronavirus/for-nhsggc-staff/covid-19-testing-for-staff/>).

Asymptomatic staff should be tested in the home either by nursing home staff or the HSCP testing teams. If relevant, when you know when the testing team will be in the home, could you ask staff who will not be on duty at that time to attend to be tested. We are asking care homes to have list of all staff, including agency staff who have worked in the home in the last 14 days.

For each staff member we will require their full name, home address (as registered with their GP), date of birth, their GP practice, their mobile number (so test results can be sent to them) and their CHI number if known. We will ask you to collate the results of staff testing and as for resident, report the anonymised collated results to the Local Authority Contracts/Commissioning Officer and to the NHSGGC Public Health team. Staff can continue to attend work while the test result is awaited unless they are symptomatic.

I realise this is a new system and places additional demands on you and your care home at this very busy time; my team and the HSCP will do their best to support you in this endeavour. We will be providing further guidance on the management of staff and residents who are asymptomatic with a positive test.

I will be sending guidance on testing of new admissions to care homes over the next couple of days.

Yours sincerely



Linda De Caestecker
Director of Public Health
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

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- Appendix 1 - GG&C Covid-19 Care Home Case NEW Outbreak Test Process