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Public Health



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Our Ref: Care home testing
Date 07/10/20

Change to criteria for mass resident testing in care homes

Dear Colleague,

As you will be aware, whenever an asymptomatic care home staff member tested positive on their routine weekly covid-19 screening, we had been approaching the HSCP hubs to request that these individuals were retested via the NHS Virology labs, as there was a high probability that some of these initial tests would transpire to be false positive results. As we are all aware, in recent weeks there has been a marked increase in community transmission of Covid-19 and more of these staff who initially tested positive via routine weekly testing, are also being confirmed as positive on HSCP retesting via NHS Virology. Likewise it is also becoming more common for asymptomatic positive staff members to then go on to develop symptoms of Covid-19.

As such, it was discussed and agreed that as of yesterday, whenever a new staff member tests positive on routine weekly screening, regardless of which lab the test went to, we will now accept that initial result as accurate and approach the HSCP hubs to request that mass resident testing be carried in the corresponding care home. This will enable us to more swiftly assess whether there is evidence of an outbreak situation within the staff member's workplace.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance with this process.

The [NHSGGC website](#) provides information and resources, including frequently asked questions, about Covid-19 and care homes for care home managers and staff. We continue to update the site as guidance develops and I would encourage you to review it regularly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with the NHSGGC Public Health Protection Team on 0141 201 4917 option 3.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Linda de Caestecker'.

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

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