Dear Care Home Manager

Testing for COVID-19 in Care Homes

You will be aware of the national 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:** This will involve testing, subject to individuals’ consent, all residents and staff, whether or not they have symptoms.

2. **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, testing is carried out in any linked homes.

3. **Comprehensive surveillance testing in care homes where there are no cases:** Sampling testing should be undertaken in care homes where there are no cases.

4. **Weekly testing of all care home staff**

I am writing to you about the category 3 of testing, sampling testing where there are no current cases. We are sampling 10% of residents on homes on a rolling basis. Staff are already tested through the weekly testing. HSCP teams may contact you to test 10% of your residents with their consent and I would be grateful if you would take part in this programme.

Thank you again for all your work on testing and please contact me with any queries.

Yours sincerely

DR LINDA DE CAESTECKER
Director of Public Health