

United Kingdom Homecare Association

The professional association for homecare providers



Staff and residents in supported living and extra care settings offered routine testing for COVID-19

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have announced that regular testing for coronavirus (Covid-19) is being extended to supported living and extra-care settings in England, which meet certain criteria.

All staff and residents should be offered tests in these settings, including care staff, housing staff, and all residents, whether they receive personal care or not.

This scheme relates to “asymptomatic” people, i.e. those who *do not* have symptoms of coronavirus. Those who have symptoms should follow existing testing procedures.

Under the new scheme:

- Each setting has a testing coordinator who orders tests for the setting and has oversight of the overall testing process.
- From **9 December** onwards, testing coordinators should order tests every 28 days for their setting.
- Each member of staff should conduct a test each week and each resident should be tested monthly.
- Completed tests can be sent back via priority post box or collected via a courier.
- Results will be received within 2 to 4 days by email and text message (SMS).

The eligibility criteria for a supported living or extra care setting to participate in the scheme are as follows:

- The setting is a closed community with substantial facilities shared between multiple people, and
- Where most residents receive the kind of personal care that is CQC regulated (rather than help with cooking, cleaning and shopping)
- Your Local Authority has identified you as eligible for Extra Care and Supported Living testing and you will have received an email inviting you to order test kits from organisation.coronavirus.testing@notifications.service.gov.uk

Where a setting meets the criteria, but has **not** been identified by their Local Authority, there is a self-referral process and portal, described in the guidance, which will apply from **11 December**.

There is comprehensive guidance on regular testing, how it operates and what to do if there is a COVID-19 outbreak, at:

[**Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing service for extra care and supported living settings**](#)

To help providers, there are DHSC webinars which explain the scheme further. Register to attend:

[**Extra Care and Supported Living Testing Webinar**](#)

Yours sincerely,

Policy and Campaigns Team, UKHCA

