

TESTING FOR RESIDENTS AND STAFF IN CARE HOMES – LATEST NATIONAL GUIDANCE

Dear Provider

Please see the latest guidance on the National arrangements for testing of both staff and residents within care homes which provides a useful flow chart to show the options available to you via the national on-line portals. **Information is located in the Provider Zone linked to today's Bulletin 14.05.2020.**

Whilst we don't yet have any locally reported challenges highlighted with the process for obtaining tests for residents via this route, we are aware of some of the challenges of obtaining bulk testing for staff in care homes.

As you will be aware from previous guidance issued, we have responded to the staff testing challenge by offering local testing arrangements via Marley Fields Satellite test centre and we encourage you to use this route for staff testing regardless of whether the key worker has any symptoms or not. Using the local solution offers care homes the benefit of a next day collection service in most cases which allows quicker access. In addition the local solution will also offer a regular re-testing programme for all staff across all our care homes in Bradford and will ensure that accurate records are maintained so you will know who has been tested and when which will help with tracking positive results and infection control processes.

The take up for the local testing arrangement at Marley Stadium this week has been significant and those using the service have confirmed how quick and efficient the process is which is very encouraging. We have some more capacity this coming weekend (Saturday and Sunday) and can test up to around 400 staff members so would encourage any Care Homes that have not yet used this facility to take this opportunity to have staff included in a regular cycle of testing over the coming weeks and months.

If you need any further information on the local testing arrangement please contact our central co-ordination team at COVID19.stafftesting@bradford.gov.uk
Or to speak to a member of the team please telephone **01274 437070**