

COVID- 19 Testing Residents

Background to testing

- [COVID19: Action Plan for Social Care Department of Health and Social care April 2020](#)
- **Control of the spread of infection** through support and advice on how to keep care settings safe, Provision and use of Personal Protective Equipment and better testing for care home residents of COVID-19 status and providing effective isolation strategies or cohorting policies across health and social care

When testing should be carried out ?

- At point of outbreak - residents that are symptomatic in the care home (Pillar 1)
- Testing of subsequent residents and post outbreak (Pillar 2)
- Discharge from hospital going in to a care home
- Admission of individuals in to a care home from community setting

residents that are symptomatic in the care home

Pillar 1 Residents at the point of outbreak

- **At the point of an outbreak** contact the Public Health England local Health Protection Team on: **0113 386 0300** or **out of hours on: 0114 304 9843** if any residents develop **any** COVID-19 symptoms. HPT will send swabs for the number of people that are symptomatic at that time/provide advice
- If any residents develop **any** symptoms care homes should assume COVID-19 positive and **provide isolation/barrier nursing for 14 days and whilst waiting for test results**
- Swab symptomatic residents following PHE guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> and send to the laboratory for testing via courier.
- Where care home providers are unable to carry out the swabbing procedure they should call Immedicare telemedicine nurses in the first instance for support.
- Whilst waiting for tests care homes **should assume COVID-19 positive and provide isolation for 14 days** for any residents showing any of the symptoms.
- Contact HPT for test results via phone on: **0113 386 0300**.
- Communicate the results to the resident/family, staff and GP.
- **Register any COVID-19 positive residents with Immedicare** who together with the **Super Rota**, will provide enhanced surveillance and support for that person during the isolation period and beyond if unwell.
- Maintain a **COVID-19 Test Tracker**
- **Local Infection Prevention Team specialist advise**

Ongoing/Post Outbreak Testing

Pillar 2: Whole home testing via Department of Health and social care portal

- Whole home testing approach following identification of an outbreak, which is currently having a phased roll out. This service is currently **only available to care homes which look after older people or people with dementia**.
- Test kits should be ordered through the [Care Home Testing Portal](#)
- Access via online registration process in order to ensure the receipt of results. (need CQC registration number).
- Questions about test kit registration ?
- Contact the **Coronavirus Testing Call Centre on 0300 303 2713**. (Open 07:00 to 23:00 every day)
- Complete swab test of **all** remaining residents not yet tested. (Guidance available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lo6g-TYZ-c&>)
- phased roll out – Under 65s – asymptomatic homes – regular testing

Discharge of new and existing 'residents' going in to a care home setting from hospital

Guiding Principles related to the discharge of patients

- **Infection free homes must be kept infection free.**
- This means anyone who is COVID-19 positive should not be sent to a home that is COVID-19 free.
- Homes that already have residents with COVID-19 symptoms/confirmed COVID-19 should have a discussion, led by the discharge team, to determine their ability to manage additional patient admissions
- All re-starts of packages of care and discharges must be managed by the hospital discharge team
- In order to achieve these principles residents may go to a LA COVID/NON COVID suite for isolation/cohorting
- **Any residents that are discharged and are asymptomatic should be isolated for 14 days** to mitigate against any transmission of infection as a precaution

What does the care home need to do?

- Send **Red Bag Hospital Transfer Pathway** documents with all residents going to hospital. The **Assessment/SBAR** form should include the **current COVID-19 status of the home** i.e. is the home COVID-19 positive or infection free. If this changes while the resident is in hospital, the care home should inform the hospital ward/discharge team as soon as possible.
- **Work with the hospital ward/discharge team prior to discharge on individual test results and understand individual's care needs.** Care homes should also report any changes to the COVID-19 status of the home i.e. Is the home COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 free.
- Working with the principles of **keep infection free homes infection free**, care homes should note if the test is negative and the home has positive status as consideration will be given for alternative accommodation in LA 'Non COVID' suite.
- **If the resident is COVID-19 positive, they will not be discharged to a care home that is COVID-19 free.**
- **If COVID-19 positive test in a COVID-19 positive home**, care homes should confirm with the hospital discharge team as soon as possible if they are able to accommodate these individuals through effective isolation strategies or cohorting policies.
- **Register any residents that are COVID-19 positive with TeleHub** so that they can agree a plan for enhanced support 'ward rounds' based on individual needs.

Admission from a community setting

Any new admissions from community must be tested prior to admission.

- **Individuals coming from the community OR transferring from another care facility (i.e. LA short term bed/COVID suite) need to be tested prior to admission to the care home**
- **All new admissions will require isolation for a 14 day period** to mitigate against any transmission of infection as a precaution

How will this be done?

- BDCFT COVID-19 Home Visiting Team will carry out any tests required for people in community settings prior to admission/transfer to a care home
- Referrals for Testing are made through the LA assessment team on: 01274 434994
- For people living in community who have referred directly to the care home, (i.e. private funders) **care homes** are required to contact the LA in the first instance to arrange testing via the COVID-19 Home Visiting Team prior to admission.

Who should I contact ?

Pillar 1 Residents at the point of outbreak

If **any** residents develop **any** of the following symptoms:

- Fever above 37.8 °C
- Continuous cough
- Flu like symptoms or worsening SOB
- Loss of taste/smell (anosmia)

Inform Local Health Protection Team

Tel: 0113 386 0300 (9 to 5) or
Out of Hours 0114 304 9843

Pillar 2 – Subsequent testing for ongoing outbreak and post outbreak testing Via DHSC

Test kits should be ordered through the [Care Home Testing Portal](#)

If a manager has questions about their test kit registration, contact the **Coronavirus Testing Call Centre on 0300 303 2713.**

Discharge from Hospital

Infection free homes must be kept infection free

Work with hospital discharge team for safe discharge
Refer to LA COVID/NON COVID Suites for Isolation/Cohorting

Admission to care home from a community setting (own home/, LA bed,)

BDCFT COVID-19 Home Visiting Team will carry out any tests required for people in community settings prior to admission/transfer to a care home

Referrals for Testing are made through the LA assessment team on: 01274 434994

Pathways will be sent out this week - This is a fast moving process, it is expected that this will be a 'live' document that will be updated as we receive further guidance