

URGENT UPDATE ON COVID-19 TESTING *Please note that this is further to the information that went out in the Provider bulletin on 4 August 2020*

Further to the update provided via the “provider bulletin” on 4 August 2020 surrounding the potential delays in accessing 2nd whole home testing kits, we are pleased to report that many care homes are now confirming delivery of their new supply ahead of the deadline of 7 September which is very much welcomed and will ensure that routine testing can continue without any disruption.

However through our direct conversations via the care sector liaison support officers we have also identified a number of care homes (over 65's and those with dementia) who are still experiencing delays or access issues. If you do not already have a sufficient supply of testing kits on site to continue to undertake your regular testing regime until 7 September then additional capacity has been agreed locally and the Marley Stadium supply will be re-directed to bridge any gaps in the numbers you require until you receive your next delivery via the national portal. The referral form for a “bulk collection” of kits is attached for your information and you should complete this and send it back to the central team at covid19.stafftesting@bradford.gov.uk. This should be completed in advance of you “running out” of your supply of kits and the earlier the better to avoid any spike's in demand that cannot be accommodated as per the schedule listed in the last update.

If you have been allocated tests via the Marley test centre schedule and have now received confirmation of your delivery of 2nd whole home testing then please ensure you cancel your request for test kits from Marley test centre by emailing the team.

It is **extremely important** that if you are using the local Marley offer that you strictly adhere to the arrangements for collection and drop off that is confirmed via the central testing team.. There have been occasions where staff at the Marley centre have stayed on site to receive completed tests and these have not been returned as agreed. In addition there have been occasions where responsible managers have not arrived in the vehicle that has been prior agreed. This causes additional administration burden and impacts on the strict governance required for the allocation of tests for both the council team and those supporting the provision at Marley centre so your support is appreciated to ensure we maintain this vital provision.

It is the responsibility of each care home to ensure that they are able to maintain their regular testing regimes in accordance with government policy and if you **have not** already registered for your 2nd round of whole home testing then you should do so urgently following the guidance below.

How do I apply to receive test kits to carry out repeat testing?

Care homes should register for retesting here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-carehome>, as soon as possible. Note even if you previously registered for whole home testing when it was first made available, you will need to re-register on the portal in order to receive regular retesting

If you meet the eligibility criteria but have not had any success in accessing tests via the national portal and you have not already discussed this with your liaison officer then you should discuss this as a matter of urgency so that we can support you with on-going capacity until your issue is fully resolved and you are able to access the national supply.

Other Adult Care Homes

If you are classified as “other adult care home” e.g. Mental health, Learning Disability or Physical Disability then we are able to continue to support your care home with regular testing arrangements at Marley Stadium. If you have not yet accessed the local testing arrangement for regular testing and believe you have an urgent need ahead of the planned rollout of supply via the national arrangements from 31 August, the team will be happy to discuss your requirements with you in further detail and will seek to offer solutions where possible in line with the national testing framework and the capacity we have available to us at a local level and you can speak to a member of the team on 01274 437070.

Update on use of Randox Kits

On 16 July 2022, the DHSC wrote to all care homes who had received Randox test kits from NHS Test and Trace, instructing them to immediately cease using these kits for testing. This pause was a precautionary measure whilst an investigation took place on a potential safety issue. In those communications you were asked to keep the testing in a secure location and ensure they were not used.

The Medical Health products Regulatory Agency have taken the decision to recall Randox test kits as a precautionary measure. For the full recall statement please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-randox-test-kits--2>. Anyone who is in possession of Randox test kits should follow the instructions on how to return kits to Randox. DHSC will be in contact with you to support you with labelling your kits and booking your courier. This only affects care homes with Randox test kits, which are clearly marked with the words “Randox Laboratories”. In the meantime, if you have any further questions please join DHSC regular webinars or contact the 119 helpdesk.