Testing for Covid 19 in Primary Care Key Workers and Household Members that are showing symptoms of infection and are self-isolating at the Satellite Testing Centres (STCs).

1. **Context**

It is essential that we maximise our ability to test our key workers for Covid-19 in order that they are able to continue to work in their vital capacity if the test result is negative.

Key workers are those working in the NHS, in Social Care, in Care Homes, Hospices, Pharmacies, Opticians, Dental Practice and beyond into the Police Force, Fire Brigades, Prison Services and other essential services.

We have increased our testing capacity, so we are able to expand the testing offer to a wider group of staff and household members who are symptomatic (day 1 - 5). We will continue to give priority to testing patients admitted to hospitals with possible COVID-19 symptoms and to ensure staff working in critical care, emergency departments and ambulance services are able to work. Ideally, we would like to arrange the swab on **day 3.**

The aim is to test those key workers who are symptomatic but not so ill that they can’t work, or family members causing a key worker to need to self-isolate until Covid-19 can be ruled out. **Anyone who is too ill to work should not be tested**.

Testing should be in the first three days of the onset of COVID-19 symptoms, although testing is considered effective up until day five. No testing should be undertaken after day five, unless it’s for a specific reason agreed on a case by case basis by local microbiologists.

All swabs obtained via this ‘drive in’ route are sent away and analysed in one of the super laboratory hubs created as part of Pillar 2 (Milton Keynes, Alderley Edge & Glasgow). This does not use extant NHS / PHE Lab capacity.

1. **Drive in Testing Model**

The drive-in facilities aim to support organisations return critical staff to the workforce as soon as practicable, and as their condition allows, by offering access to swabbing at several Regional Testing Centres (RTCs) and more local satellite testing centres (STCs).

Staff are invited to attend a swabbing appointment after being nominated by their **employer** and will be allocated a time slot to arrive at the designated drive in testing centre and must attend prepared to follow the mandatory requirements set out in appendices 1 and 2.

Details of the appointment at the STC will be e-mailed to the staff / family member ahead of their appointment.

**Key Responsibilities for Employers**

The National Testing Programme provides COVID-19 tests to key workers or symptomatic members of their household to support the employer in maximising its workforce capacity during this unprecedented time.

To refer subjects to be COVID-19 tested, the employer must:

1. **Ensure that only the right person /people are nominated for tests**
2. **Collect the personal data of everyone being nominated**, in the correct template
3. **Submit the data (** [england.covidtestingnw@nhs.net](mailto:england.covidtestingnw@nhs.net) **)** by 11:00am for next day testing. Submissions after 11.00am will carry over to the day after and do not need to be resubmitted. Any subjects who we do not have complete data for on the day of testing will be turned away, with no exceptions.

**We will send everyone being invited for a test an email** with the details they need

This protocol must be followed by all organisations that wish to use the ‘drive in’ swabbing facility.

It is critical that the required data is captured by each employer when referring their staff or family members of staff for swabbing as part of this programme. This is essential in order that accurate and prioritised nominations for testing are submitted on the key worker data capture form (see Appendix 1).

1. **Eligibility for Testing**

It is critical that only eligible individuals are sent to test centers for COVID-19 testing. This is to ensure efficacy of the test itself, and to ensure that all tests are being used to help get key workers who are isolating back to work.

Key workers should be in the first three days of the onset of their COVID-19 symptoms at the time the swab is taken - although testing is considered effective up until day five. No testing should be undertaken after day five, unless it’s for a specific reason agreed on a case by case basis by local microbiologists.

Individuals who are not showing symptoms should not be tested – the test is unreliable on asymptotic individuals. Tests can only tell whether individuals are currently coronavirus positive (the test will not show if an individual previously experienced corona).

Eligibility:

* A key worker who is self-isolating because they are showing corona virus symptoms.
* Household members (over 5 years of age) who are showing symptoms, resulting in a key worker self-isolating.
* Please note testing is **not** currently available to anyone under 5s, therefore if any under-5s are symptomatic within the household, no one is eligible to be tested in the drive-in facility. This is because if an adult showing corona symptoms tested negative but lived with an under 5-year-old who was symptomatic, the adult would still need to self-isolate.

**Data required from employer**

* **Subject full name:** Full name of subject being tested (including both first and last name)
* **Preferred Test site:** Select the test site which the subject will be attending . Please note under 18s can be tested at the STCs only.
* **Email Address-** required to send invitation and information pack
* **Date of Birth-** confirmation subject is over 5
* **Vehicle Registration:** Enter the registration plate of the vehicle that the subject use to travel to the test centre.
* **Mobile number:** enter a mobile number specific for the subject.
* **Employing organisation of key worker:** Enter the name of the employer that has referred the subject
* *Optional* – NHS number.
* **Keyworker full name**: If the subject is a symptomatic household member of a key worker, you should enter the relevant key workers name
* **Primary Care Sector**- does the keywork work in pharmacy, dental or optometry?

Data submission must be made using the Data Capture Form (Appendix 3). Any incomplete submissions may be returned to the respective employer. Any individual appointments without all the mandatory information will be rejected.

1. **Test Results**

Test results are provided back to the individual tested via the mobile number provided. The result will be a simple ‘Positive’, ‘Negative’ or ‘Not Determined’. It is important the employing organisations and the individual tested make arrangements to review the test result. Staff may not necessarily be able return to work on the basis of a negative result only, national guidance should be referenced when interpreting the results.

Individual key workers or family members will be sent a text message with their results within 72 hours of being tested.

If a member of staff tests negative, then they can return to work if they are well enough to do so and should discuss this with their employing organisation. If an individual living in the same household as a member of the NHS family tests negative then the NHS worker can return to work without themselves being tested, as long as they remain symptom free and the whole household can come out of self- isolation.

**Ends**