

Wednesday, 03 June 2020

Health Protection

Swabbing protocol

for care homes (nursing and residential) and supported living centres

If a patient is symptomatic for COVID-19 in a care home (nursing or residential) or a supported living centre a swab should be taken.

Residential homes and supported living centres

Residential homes and supported living centres generally have no on-site nursing staff, so a district nurse or other trained healthcare worker from their local Trust should undertake swabbing.

Nursing homes

Nursing homes should be able to undertake swabbing using the recommended PPE.

Nursing homes need to have a supply of swabs or easy access (same day) to swabs for COVID-19 testing and the appropriate forms to accompany swabbing from their local hospital laboratory.

Full information must be provided on the form and it should be clearly marked "nursing home".

Nursing homes must arrange for the swabs to be delivered to the local hospital laboratory (as advised by the Trust).

Nursing homes must have the appropriate supply of PPE to undertake this task otherwise it will have to be undertaken by a district nurse or other trained healthcare worker.

Trusts

Trusts must facilitate a request from a care home or supported living centre for swabbing and have a single point of contact (either telephone or e-mail) that is communicated to all homes and supported living centres in their locality.

If a district nurse or other trained healthcare worker needs to be deployed to take a swab, the home or centre should be given a rough estimate of when they will attend.

The district nurse/healthcare worker will be responsible for ensuring the swab is delivered to the laboratory.

The Trust should advise nursing homes taking their own swabs where they are to be delivered to for testing.

Results

Results of swabbing are phoned through to the home by the laboratory in their local Trust.

The Trust puts the results on NIECR.

Staff in the home are responsible for notifying the resident's GP in the case of a positive result.

If patients are acutely unwell the GP should be contacted.

This factsheet outlines the arrangements for COVID-19 testing in nursing and residential care homes and supported living centres. It provides guidance on how to carry out a swab test, and how to package the test safely to return to the virology laboratory.

Details

Format

A4 factsheet, 4 pages, PDF only

Target group

Care home staff

Downloads

Attachment**Size**

[Care Homes Swabbing Protocols A4 Factsheet 06_20.pdf](#) 445.84 KB

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