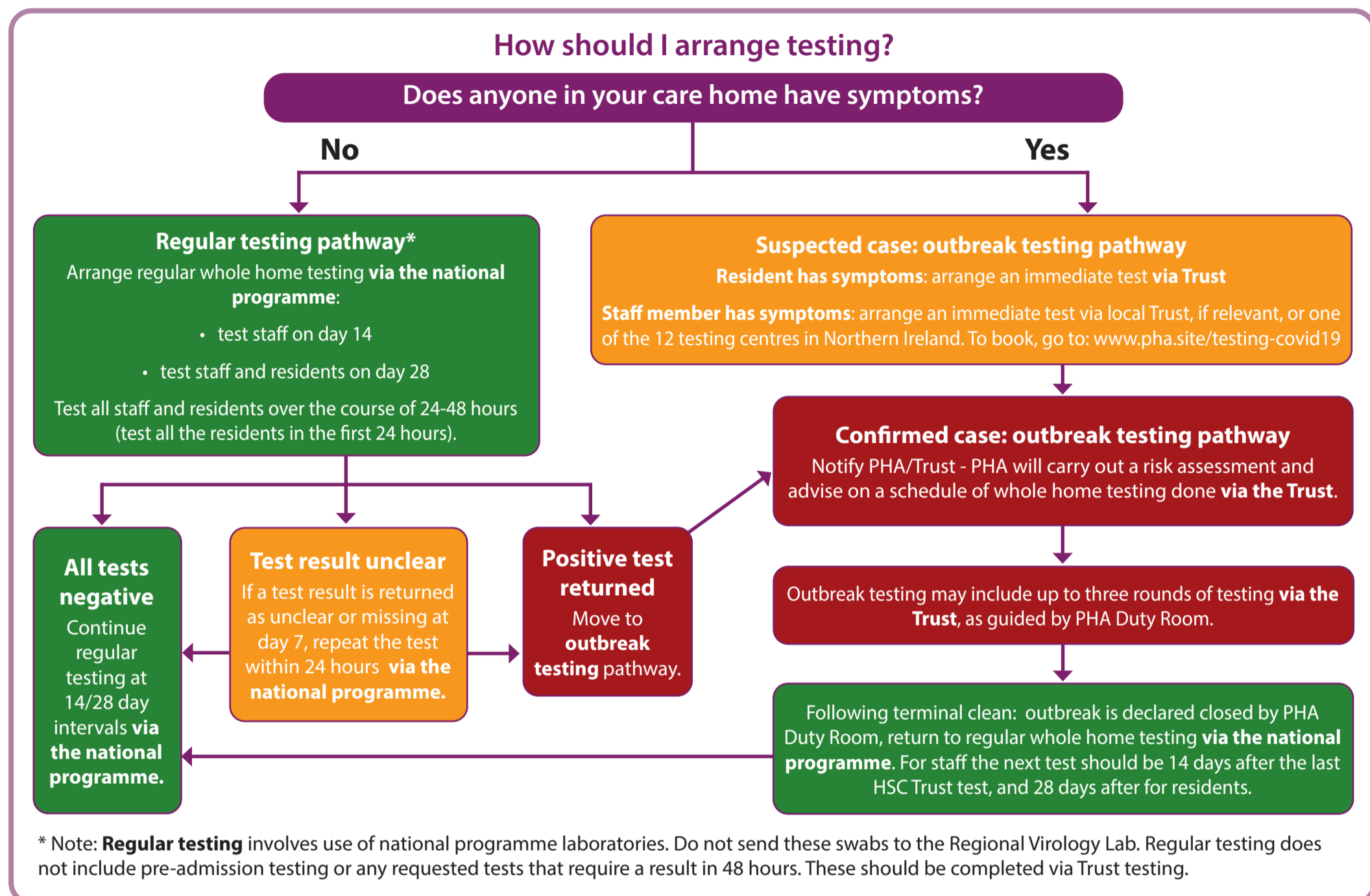


# Guidance for care homes on regular testing and what to do in outbreak situations

Testing for COVID-19 is an essential part of the strategy for reducing infections in care homes. Arrangements for testing will be different depending on whether it is regular whole home testing, or testing in response to a possible COVID-19 case.



## If someone in your home has symptoms or if regular testing returns a positive case

- Contact the GP of affected residents if necessary to arrange clinical assessment.
- Contact the Public Health Agency (PHA) Duty Room on 0300 555 0119 or by email to: [PHA.DutyRoom@hscni.net](mailto:PHA.DutyRoom@hscni.net) – whether an outbreak is declared or not, the PHA Duty Officer will progress a risk assessment with the care home and advise staff of what further action(s) are required.
- Contact your local Trust care home support team.
  - Belfast - [CommSvcsTeam@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:CommSvcsTeam@belfasttrust.hscni.net)
  - Northern - [hcw.testing@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:hcw.testing@northerntrust.hscni.net)
  - South Eastern - [Permanent.Placement@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:Permanent.Placement@setrust.hscni.net)
  - Southern - [community.covid19screening@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:community.covid19screening@southerntrust.hscni.net)
  - Western - [CareHomeSupportTeam@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:CareHomeSupportTeam@westerntrust.hscni.net)

**Please note all contacts remain the same for seven day service.**

## What to do if someone tests positive a second time

If a resident or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, either in regular testing or as part of an outbreak, they should not be retested for a minimum period of 90 days. After 90 days they can be included in the next round of regular whole home testing.

If the resident or staff member tests positive for a second time, you should contact your Trust care home support team. Trust staff will arrange a further swab and, based on this result, PHA Duty Room staff will advise on management on a case by case basis.

For regular testing courier or results, contact 119.

All staff are welcome to contact [PHA.carehometesting@hscni.net](mailto:PHA.carehometesting@hscni.net) for any other queries or feedback.