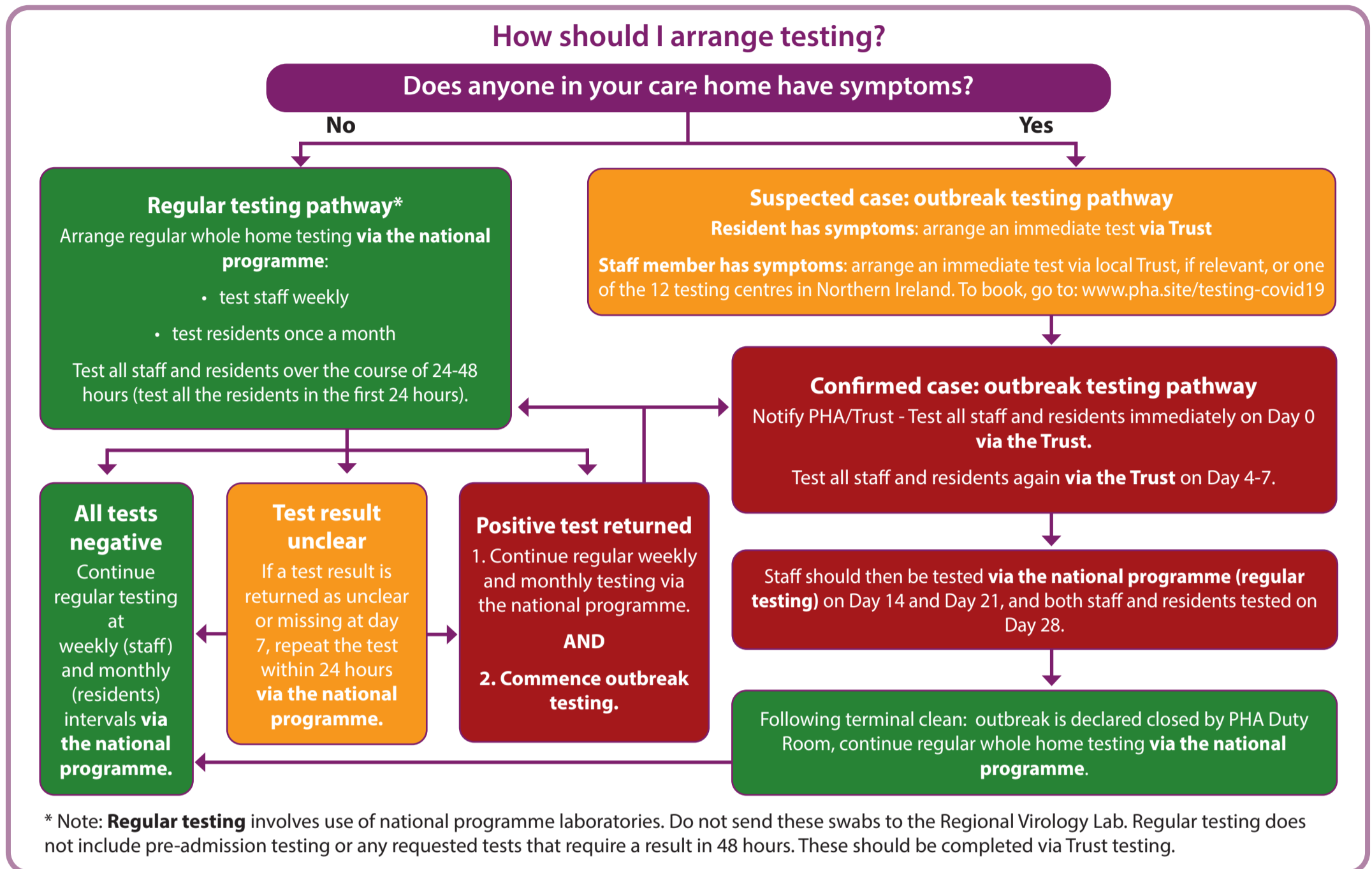


# Guidance for care homes on regular testing and what to do in outbreak situations

Version 3 Updated 13/01/21

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 - [CommSvcTeam@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:CommSvcTeam@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)

**After 5pm weekdays, weekends and bank holidays please contact PHA via Ambulance Control.**

## 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 unless they develop symptoms. After 90 days they can be included in the next round of regular whole home testing.

If, after 90 days, a resident or staff member tests positive for a SECOND time in a care home and is symptom free, a precautionary approach should be taken and the individual asked to isolate for **14 days** (care home resident) or **10 days** (staff member).

For regular testing courier or results, contact 119.

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