

Care Home Covid-19 Testing Guidance - National Testing Partnership

Providing testing within all care homes will help you protect your residents and staff, and is an important part of the national effort to tackle coronavirus. Thank you for everything you are doing at this hugely challenging time.

This overview is provided for “green” whole home, repeat testing NI. All asymptomatic staff and residents will now be tested on a regular basis. Staff will be tested every 7 days and residents will be tested every 28 days.

A full guidance booklet is available on the PHA website and should be followed and checked before each round of testing. This live document will map any changes to how regular home testing should occur.

Suspected outbreaks / outbreaks should continue to be managed via HSC Trusts / PHA

- Contact the GP of affected residents to arrange clinical assessment;
- Contact the Public Health Agency (PHA) Duty Room on 0300 555 0119 or by email to: PHA.DutyRoom@hscni.net to complete a public health risk assessment;

You will now need to use a new UON to replace your RQIA number for all communication / ordering.

Simple lookup your UON using their existing care home ID –

<https://organisation-number-lookup.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>

At a glance checklist.....

- **Staff and residents ready for testing**
- **Order kits**
- **Kits arrival**
- **Plan your test day/s**
- **Book your courier**
- **Review the guidance booklet – Page 2**
- **Complete testing - completing logs**
- **See Frequently Asked Questions section**

At a glance checklist....

TASK	Comments	Actioned / Date
<p>Ensure staff are trained to assist residents with swabbing.</p> <p>It is accepted some settings may require HSC Trust assistance i.e. disability care settings / dementia care settings.</p>	<p>Care home instruction video https://youtu.be/1l0jcv37WzI</p> <p>Competency Assessment https://www.genga.org/node/669</p> <p>Testing in a mental health or learning disabilities care setting. https://youtu.be/oluTQCVKM1A</p>	
<p>Order test kits via the online portal for care homes:</p> <p>https://gov.uk/register-organisation-tests</p>	<p><u>Order kits approx. one week in advance of planned testing date.</u></p> <p><u>Once started you will order kits every 3 weeks.</u></p>	
<p>Discuss the testing approach with your residents and staff.</p>	<p>Staff should watch the self-swab video for their own test. https://youtu.be/zCqo7MhQT6U</p>	
<p>Make sure that you obtain consent from residents.</p>	<p>You should obtain consent to conduct the test from the resident in line with your usual policies and procedures.</p>	
<p>Review your personal protective equipment (PPE) supply.</p>	<p>Ensure you have the correct PPE to carry out testing.</p>	
<p>Ensure a proper workstation is available.</p>	<p>For preparing and packing the tests.</p>	
<p>Look out for the delivery confirmation email letting you know when tests will be delivered.</p>	<p>Plan your testing 2 days after expected delivery in case of any postal delays.</p>	
<p>Have a workflow to allow tests to be easily recorded, conducted and registered as swiftly as possible</p>	<p>It is recommended to have two staff members; one to conduct the test and the other to record the relevant information needed for registration</p>	
<p>Keep records for logging test URN numbers and person's details on the website to ensure you receive results. https://organisations.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-organisation-tests</p>	<p>It crucial that you register each completed test on line at https://test-kit-collection.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/</p> <p>On the site please click as appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care facility – residents – click as appropriate • Care facility – staff – click as appropriate 	
<p>Make sure you have booked a courier collection by 7pm the day before you start testing.</p>	<p>This can be arranged at https://testkitcollect.co.uk</p>	