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Coronavirus (COVID-19) tests available for adult social care in England

Care Homes

Do you have a suspected or current outbreak? (At least one suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in staff or residents)

Yes, a new suspected or confirmed outbreak

Report to Health Protection Team (HPT) as soon as a case is suspected. **Testing available now.**

Once an outbreak is confirmed, the HPT will arrange testing for all residents and staff. The HPT will also arrange a follow up test after 4-7 days for residents and staff who tested negative on the first round of testing or who missed the initial test.

Yes – a current outbreak and the steps above for a new outbreak have been completed

Continue the regular weekly testing cycle for staff*

Asymptomatic testing of residents is not needed unless recommended otherwise by the HPT or by the Director of Public Health following a local risk assessment.

If residents develop symptoms, contact the HPT to access rapid testing.

If staff develop symptoms, they must not be tested in the care home. They should self-isolate and order a test through the self referral portal

All staff and residents should be retested* again 28 days after the last resident or staff had a positive test result or showed coronavirus-like symptoms. If no further cases are identified at this point, the outbreak is considered to have ended. Any further cases after this point is a new outbreak and the care home must contact the HPT.

No

Apply for regular testing **and follow whole home retesting cycle.***

- **Weekly testing of staff**, including bank and agency staff
- **Test residents every 28 days.**

Currently only care homes caring for over 65s and those with dementia are eligible for retesting. All other adult care homes registered with CQC will be able to register for regular testing from 31 August. See guidance

***Note:** Staff or residents who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 should not be included in testing (as part of regular testing or the whole home test at 28 days after the last identified case) until six weeks after:

- Their initial onset of symptoms
- Or, if asymptomatic when tested, their positive test result

If they develop new symptoms, they should be retested immediately.

Extra Care and Supported Living settings

Do you have a new or current outbreak?

Yes

Report to Health Protection Team (HPT) / Directors of Public Health. They will undertake an initial risk assessment, provide advice on outbreak management and decide what testing is needed.

No

We will roll out an initial round of testing for staff and residents in supported living and extra care settings which meet certain risk-based criteria. Local Directors of Public Health will determine which extra care and supported living settings meet the criteria.

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Anyone with symptoms can get tested for coronavirus by visiting **www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test**

Domiciliary care

Asymptomatic testing for domiciliary care workers (also known as home care workers) will be guided by the results from the PHE prevalence study into domiciliary care. This study found that COVID-19 prevalence among domiciliary care workers was similar to prevalence in the general population. We are currently reviewing the implications for asymptomatic testing in domiciliary care.

Testing for people being admitted to a care home

People being discharged from hospital to a care home are tested at hospital before discharge.

Testing for people being admitted to a care home from the community

People being admitted to a care home from the community should be tested prior to admission to a care home. Guidance setting out the process for this will follow shortly.

Other settings

Work is underway to support and enable Directors of Public Health to direct some testing locally to respond to local need. This may include further testing resource within Adult Social Care but the allocation of this testing will be determined by the local Director of Public Health. The National Testing Programme will update on progress shortly.

Antibody testing

Antibody testing will be rolled out to staff in phases across regions in England. This is has been piloted in areas including Greater Manchester. We will shortly set out how the NHS will support adult social care staff to access antibody testing.

Further advice for care homes

For more information and guidance on whole home testing visit: **www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#care-home**

Read the **guidance on admission, isolation and testing of residents**. This guidance will continue to be updated regularly so check back every retest cycle.

If you have any issues with registration, delivery or collection of test kits, contact the Coronavirus Testing call centre on **0300 303 2713**. It is open from 07:00 to 23:00 every day.