

Health Protection Team Bulletin Issued 29th of June 2021

Latest Care home guidance update published 24th June 2021 [COVID-19: Information and Guidance for Care Home Settings \(Adults and Older People\)](#) (publichealthscotland.scot)

There are some changes you should be aware of, particularly around need to isolate new residents from community and hospital (7.2 and 7.3) and stopping routine care home resident surveillance testing. Please ensure that you read this and make staff aware of changes.

Guidance for staff on the use of face coverings Visit this link to view the latest guidance [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): use of face coverings in social care settings including adult care homes](#) published 23rd June.

Staff who are close contacts of a positive case

Staff who are identified by contact tracers as a close contact of an index case must isolate but HPT do not need to be informed unless staff member develop symptoms and/or being tested with symptoms.

Staff who have not been identified as a close contact them self but share a household with a close contact. In this situation the staff member does not require to isolate and can attend work so long as no one in the household develops symptoms or tests positive. However the staff member may have to be off work to take care of any dependants in their household e.g.child care.

Please escalate any staffing issues to your own management and local oversight team.

Testing route for health and care staff [COVID-19 Testing \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#)

This route should be followed for staff, or their household contacts, when one of the following applies:

- -staff or household contact requires test for symptoms of COVID19
- -staff have been asked to arrange a PCR by Test and Protect
- -staff who have had a positive lateral flow test when this is not taken the same day/time as weekly surveillance PCR

Testing of Care home residents with symptoms

You should follow the **Care Home COVID-19 Testing Flowchart** (attached) for your locality which can be found via this link [COVID-19 Testing Policy \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#)

Please remember to label the swab bottle with residents CHI number or date of birth if CHI not available You also need to complete the laboratory chit with the same information as swab bottle. A copy of **laboratory request chit** is attached. If either is not completed fully the lab will not process the sample. A pictorial guide is attached (**Resident test**) to this email which illustrates the process for testing residents with symptoms. Also attached is an **Appendix** to resident testing which details how to access a swab for a resident test and where to take completed swabs by locality. Please share this information with staff.

Change to frequency of Teams meets hosted by HPT: Care home managers meetings are to reduce from fortnightly to every 4 weeks. The next round of daily meets will take place the week **19th to 23rd** of July. Please attend on your usual allocated day of the week.

HPT will continue to issue updates via this bulletin as and when new themes emerge or new guidance is published.

NES wellbeing seminar Focus on Wellbeing A Webinar Programme For Health and Social Care Staff June – August 2021: The aim of fourth Focus on Wellbeing Programme is to empower and encourage health and social care staff and unpaid carers to enhance self-care and personal resilience. The programme content is linked to the range of resources available on the National Wellbeing Hub www.nationalwellbeinghub.scot

The Focus on Wellbeing Programme will be updated and circulated periodically with information on new topic sessions for your benefit, so please refer to the 'Key Dates' / 'Latest' page on the [Key dates - National Wellbeing Hub for those working in Health and Social Care](#)

Other settings (i.e. not registered as a Care Home with Care Inspectorate):

- HPT advise that there is no longer a requirement to inform HPT of staff being tested because of symptoms but please continue to let us know if any staff return a detected result.
- HPT now advise that residents/ service users being tested with symptoms in the 'Other' care sector should arrange a test via nhs inform call 111 or General public NHS Test number on 0800 028 2816
- **Symptomatic staff testing for all settings** should continue via this route [COVID-19 Testing \(nhsgrampian.org\)](http://nhsgrampian.org)
- If a service user in an "Other setting" need tested before going into care/respite they can access this through their care manager/GP

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