



Dear All

As you will no doubt be aware, the Scottish Government has recently made significant strides to expand its testing programme. There has been a significant level of information delivered over a short space of time to support the implementation of this. We thought it would be useful to inform you of steps that we have taken to support you with this implementation, and to describe what you may expect to see and hear from us over the next week or so.

We have created a short life working group in a bid to provide rapid support (information and processes) to help you embed the expanded requirement for staff testing. The group is formed from both Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, and provider representatives. We are very lucky to have some of Wendy Henderson's (Scottish Care team) dedicated time to support this process.

To date, this group has collated information on all of the different testing streams, with "at a glance" information and links to available guidance. We will ensure that this information is available on our provider webpage:

<https://www.aberdeencityhscp.scot/our-news/covid19-information-for-providers/>

We will also be working quickly to address some of the logistical challenges that we are all presented with as we expand the testing process. As you may be aware from the work we have done with the local PPE distribution centre, collection of test kits from the Joint Equipment Store is NOT an option due to Health and Safety concerns. We are working closely with The Hub to ensure that deliveries are coordinated. For those of you who may be required to distribute test kits to wider team, we are working closely with ACVO, in a bid to muster support with the distribution.

We hope to start to have copies of pathways to support the PCR process by the end of this week / week beginning 25th January 2021. We will distribute widely and also post on our provider webpage.

We appreciate that throughout the past year there has been an increased risk to business continuity – through staff being advised to self-isolate via contact tracing, or indeed, because they have received a positive test for COVID-19. Earlier in the year, we asked you to submit a daily report, which, as we emerged from the first phase of Covid, we reduced. We will now have to start asking you to revert to submitting a daily report – the details of this process will be shared with you. Reporting is an essential component of the partnership responding early to work with you to ensure business continuity. We would also ask you to refresh your business continuity plans and consider strategies / response for a reduction of anything up to 75% of your workforce. We do have a mobilisation plan within the Partnership, which we have used successfully for the residential sector, and we will ensure that this is fit for purpose for the non-residential sector.



We will continue to provide support via our own provider huddle which meets on a Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm and the Health Protection Team have now established an infection, prevention and control huddle on a Tuesday afternoon. We will post details of how to access these huddles on our webpage.

The Scottish Government are delivering a series of webinars to support with the delivery of the testing process and will record one of these sessions which will be made available in the near future for staff who were unable to join one of the sessions detailed below:

- Tuesday 26th January, 12-1pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Friday 29th January, 2-3pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Monday 1st February, 2-3pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Tuesday 2nd February, 2-3pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Monday 8th February 2-3pm, [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Tuesday 9th February, 12-1pm [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Monday 15th February 2-3pm, [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Tuesday 16th February 2-3pm, [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Finally, Wendy will be working throughout this development with a reference group of providers to ensure that we continue to work together to successfully embed this expanded testing process.

With best wishes

The Expanded Testing Group