

## NHS FIFE & Fife HSCP COVID-19 TESTING FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACY STAFF PROTOCOL

### PROTOCOL

Symptomatic staff members and/or those with symptomatic household contacts should not be at work whilst awaiting testing and results in line with this protocol. Please refer to guidance on self-isolation on [NHS inform](#)

**RISK ASSESSMENT \*\* Of key importance\*\***

A negative test result does not exclude the disease, therefore compliance with national guidance is the most precautionary approach to reducing transmission within the healthcare setting.

The mainstays of preventing the spread of COVID-19, both within staff groups and the wider community are:

- remain in self-isolation if symptomatic
- maintain good personal respiratory hygiene and environmental cleaning
- ensuring social distancing where possible Testing does not replace any of these measures.

Whilst the UK testing programme can be accessed directly via the online UK portal, symptomatic health and social care staff working in Fife should continue to use the NHS Fife testing programme based at Cameron Hospital as their primary route for testing when appointments are available. The symptomatic NHS Fife staff testing route is not designed for testing asymptomatic staff and must not be used by staff inappropriately. Alternative local guidance should be followed if asymptomatic testing is advised, e.g. as part of outbreak management, or for specific staff working in high risk health care areas as per Scottish Government policy. Care home staff who are eligible for weekly asymptomatic testing should access testing via their care home manager through the UK social care testing portal

## **SUITABILITY FOR TESTING**

COVID-19 testing is available to staff who meet the clinical criteria for staff testing (see below), and/or who have a household member meeting the clinical criteria (see below).

## **CRITERIA FOR TESTING**

The criteria outlined below reflect the current UK case definition and eligibility for testing for the general population. This approach, which reflects national guidance of eligibility for testing, has been reviewed and agreed by the Fife Scientific Technical Advisory Cell (STAC).

Testing can be arranged within 5 days of symptom onset:

- *New fever/high temperature (37.8°C or greater)*  
*OR*
- *New, continuous cough*  
*OR*
- *Loss of / change in sense of smell or taste*

A high temperature is feeling hot to the touch on your chest or back (you don't need to measure your temperature). You may feel warm, cold or shivery. A new continuous cough is where you:

- have a new persistent cough that's lasted for an hour
- have had 3 or more episodes of coughing in 24 hours
- are coughing more than usual

Referral to testing as soon as symptoms develop is important. Samples should be taken as quickly as possible and ideally while the case is still symptomatic within 5 days of symptom onset. The rationale for testing only within 5 days is that beyond this test results are difficult to interpret and may be of limited benefit in assisting the decision to return to work earlier than isolation timeframes.

**REFERRAL – Monday 8am to Friday 5pm**

Details of prioritised staff should be emailed **as soon as possible and within 4 days of onset of symptoms.** with the subject heading “Community Pharmacy COVID testing” to:

[fife.fifepharmacycommpharm@nhs.scot](mailto:fife.fifepharmacycommpharm@nhs.scot)

Details required and should be included in the email are as follows:

Staff Name

Contact Phone number

Contact email address

Job Title

Date of onset of symptoms

Indication of Symptomatic staff member or Symptomatic Household member

## REFERRAL –Friday 5pm – Monday 8am

Self referral can be made during this time, staff should email **as soon as possible and within 4 days of onset of symptoms.** with the subject heading “Community Pharmacy COVID testing” to:

[fife.NHSFIFECOVID19STAFFTESTING@nhs.scot](mailto:fife.NHSFIFECOVID19STAFFTESTING@nhs.scot) and [Scott.garden@nhs.scot](mailto:Scott.garden@nhs.scot)

Details required and should be included in the email are as follows:

Staff Name  
Contact Phone number  
Contact email address  
Address  
Place of work  
Job Title  
Date of onset of symptoms  
Indication of Symptomatic staff member or Symptomatic Household member

Incomplete details will result in a possibility that testing will be delayed and therefore may not be carried out. Please see guidance below on referral and testing.

## GUIDANCE FOR STAFF & LINE MANAGERS

### 1) Symptomatic staff member

#### Referral to testing -

- a. The staff member should be identified by management for testing
- b. To meet the 5 days testing criteria staff details must be notified to pharmacy services as soon as possible, notification later than 4 days may result in no test being carried out.**
- c. If testing is not possible before symptoms resolve or before 5 days post-onset, the staff member should follow national guidance on isolation (stay off for 10 days post onset of symptoms), and will not be tested as the sensitivity of the test reduces if there are no ongoing symptoms.
- d. If both the staff member and their household members are symptomatic **there is no need to also test the symptomatic household members** – the priority should be testing the healthcare worker

#### Action on results -

- e. Results will be provided via text from the National Notification Service (NNS) or via phone call from Occupational Health. If the result is positive (COVID-19 virus detected) the staff member should remain off work for 10 days from the date of onset of symptoms, after which they can return to work on day 11 if they have remained fever free for 48 hours. The staff member should expect to be contacted by the Test and Protect Team to establish / trace their contacts.
- f. If the result is undetected, the staff member will be informed of this by text from the National Notification Service (NNS) or by a phone call from Occupational Health, after which a return to work will be possible according to the information provided by either of these services. A return to work should always be discussed with your line manager before attending the workplace.

## 2) Asymptomatic staff member with a symptomatic household member

### Referral to testing –

- ONLY ONE SYMPTOMATIC MEMBER of a staff member's HOUSEHOLD: should be referred for testing by the staff member's manager if they remain symptomatic
- The household member must meet the testing criteria as above
- If testing is not possible before symptoms resolve, the staff member should follow national guidance on isolation (stay off for 14 days post onset of household member onset of symptoms), and the household member will not be tested.
- Children under 1 year of age will not be tested
- For clarity, the asymptomatic healthcare worker should *not* be tested; likewise, other household members who are asymptomatic or who do not meet the case definition above should not be tested.
- If several members of a family (apart from the healthcare worker) are symptomatic there will be little benefit in testing all members – the household member with the most recent date of onset and/or most clear cut symptoms (e.g. fever) should be prioritised (only one will be tested)

### Action on Results

- Results will be provided via text from the NNS or via phone call from Occupational Health. If the symptomatic household member is positive (COVID-19 virus detected), the staff member should be off work for 14 days from the date of onset of symptoms of the symptomatic household member (and if within that timeframe the staff member develops symptoms, they should start their own period of 10 day self-isolation and not return to work until day 11 if they have been fever free for 48 hours). The household member should expect to be contacted by the Test and Protect Team to establish/ trace their contacts.
- If the result is they will receive their result via text from NNS or via a phone call from Occupational Health. The staff member should discuss the information provided by either of these services as soon as possible with their manager to discuss a date for a safe return to work. They must self isolate immediately if they develop symptoms themselves, and can be reconsidered for testing themselves at this point

## STAFF TESTING

Testing will be carried out at a drive through facility at Cameron Hospital. Staff will be instructed to stay in their cars at all times and only open car windows in response to a health care worker wearing PPE.

Staff will be contacted and advised of their Appointment Time and will be asked to provide the following key information:-

- ii) Do they have private transport to Cameron Hospital
- iii) Are they well enough to drive to the hospital, or is there a household member who has already had contact with the patient, who can drive them?
- iv) Will they be the driver or the passenger of the vehicle?
- v) Who the test is to be performed on – staff member or symptomatic household member
- vi) What is their car registration, make & model?
- vii) Directions to Cameron Hospital will be shared
- viii) Appointment time and map of Cameron Hospital will be sent by e-mail

## TEST

The test is a **single swab inserted into the throat then the nose**. Testing will be by appointment only.

## COMMUNICATING RESULTS

The staff member will be contacted with their result via the National Notification Service or via a phone call from Occupational Health. On receipt of results the staff member should read the information provided and discuss this with their line V16 August 2020 manager as soon as possible to determine the length of time needed before a return to work can safely occur.

## MOBILE TESTING

A limited mobile testing will be available (i.e. the testing team will visit the staff members house to take the sample). A mobile testing appointment will only be considered if:

- They meet the testing criteria set out above **and**;
- They live within Fife, **and**;
- The staff member / household member has no access to their own transport, **and**;
- They do not have a household member living with them that can drive them to a drive-through appointment

When referring a staff member into the testing who fits this criteria it is important that it is clearly identified that the staff member/household member requires mobile testing. The referrer needs to provide the full address, including postcode, along with all the usual information and also indicate that the staff member requires mobile testing. The mobile testing service will be subject to review depending on demand and capacity of the testing team. The service is only available on weekdays.