**Alternative Route for COVID-19 Testing for Vulnerable People in Fife**

**Key messages**

-          **Most people who require COVID-19 testing in the community should access this through the UK testing programme – this can be accessed online via NHS Inform or by calling 0800 028 2816**

-          **People who have symptoms but who cannot manage a drive-through test or a self-taken home-test should be advised to phone 0800 028 2816 (they should not book a home-test via the UK portal); NHS 24 will redirect them into the Fife testing pathway instead of the UK testing programme**

-          **General Practitioners and other clinicians who have patients in the community  who require a test and cannot access this as described above can request this via the professional-to-professional line into the Fife triage hub**

Test and Protect is the new national programme for testing and contact tracing. Identifying COVID-19 cases early and testing suspected cases in the community is essential as we move into tackling COVID-19 through the Test & Protect programme.

 The testing part of this programme is provided by the UK government either through an appointment at a drive-through site (in Fife this is currently located in Glenrothes) or through a self testing kit sent by post. For most people with suspected COVID symptoms it will be appropriate for them to book themselves a test in this way.

Members of the general population should be advised to go to NHS Inform <https://www.nhsinform.scot/self-help-guides/self-help-guide-access-to-testing-for-coronavirus> to find out how to book a test online. People that do not have online access can phone **0800 028 2816** to arrange a test through the UK programme

This will not work a small section of our population. We have put in place an alternative testing pathway for people with symptoms in the community who do not have the ability to self-test. This has been arranged in conjunction with NHS24. When patients phone for a test via NHS24 (0800 028 2816) if they cannot take the test themselves the referral will be redirected to our local primary care triage hub who will assess the best route for testing locally. This might be an appointment at the drive-through site at Cameron Hospital, or an appointment for the Fife Community Testing Team who will visit the individual at home and take a sample.

 People in the community this may apply to include housebound and frail elderly, people with sensory impairments and people with learning difficulties or cognitive impairment. There may be other vulnerable groups where the local pathway for testing is appropriate and we will continue to review processes to try to ensure testing is accessible to everyone in Fife.

Health professionals who have patients in the community who require a test should request this via the professional-to-professional line into the Fife triage hub – please refer as ‘test-only’. If you believe your patient requires a face to face assessment at the COVID Assessment Centre (CAC) please arrange as normal.

 There is additional information about  the Test and Protect programme on the NHS Fife Coronavirus pages <https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org/advice-and-testing/>