

## **Covid-19 Screening of asymptomatic staff**

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **What's happening?**

Based on recent government guidance, groups of staff are being offered weekly tests as a means of reducing potential spread of COVID-19 in hospitals and other care settings.

#### **Which areas are being offered tests?**

Specialist Cancer Wards and Treatment Areas - adult and paediatric oncology and haemato-oncology inpatient and day patient areas  
Long stay care of the elderly - wards caring for people over 65 years of age where the average length of stay is over 3 months  
Long stay old age psychiatry and learning disability wards, where the anticipated length of stay is over 3 months

#### **Which staff groups are being offered tests?**

Nursing staff (including student nurses, HCSWs)  
Medical staff  
Allied Health Professionals (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, SALT, treatment radiography, dietician etc)  
Psychology staff  
Voluntary services (e.g. patient transport)  
Domestic and housekeeping staff  
Administrative staff

#### **Which staff are not being offered tested?**

- Staff visiting the ward infrequently such as a visiting surgeon and are not part of the normal staff cohort.
- Staff from other wards or departments where patients may receive part of their care such as x-ray department.
- Staff who have previously be tested positive for Covid-19 do not need to be tested unless they develop further symptoms.

#### **What does the test involve?**

The guidance states that staff must be tested every seven days, unless on annual leave. You can either self-test or be partner tested but if this is not possible you can attend facilities at ARI, Elgin or Huntly – see below.

Your manager will identify a suitable room for staff to self-swab/partnered-swab which is hygienic, offers privacy and is available across all shifts.

Self-swab – if you chose this method you will be provided with a testing kit.

Partnered swabbing - you may wish to buddy with a colleague who can perform the test for you and vice versa.

Watch this 6 minute video which demonstrates the correct technique for obtaining a COVID-19 nose and throat swab:

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-obtaining-an-upper-respiratory-tract-diagnostic-sample/>

Please double bag the sample into a second laboratory sample bag placing in a white microbiology/virology biohazard bag.

### **How do I arrange testing in the Drive Through or Walk Through Facilities?**

Accessing the drive through and walk through facilities at either ARI, Huntly or Elgin is available for staff who are unable to attend for ward-based tests. In order to get an appointment please complete the COVID staff testing form:

<https://covid19.nhsgrampian.org/for-nhs-grampian-staff/staff-covid-19-testing/>

**\*\*state in the address section of the form 'asymptomatic staff surveillance'\*\*\***

### **What happens if I am on annual leave or not at work?**

You do not need to be tested when you are on annual leave or not on shift. You can return to work as normal and get tested at the next available opportunity.

### **Do I have to come in on my day off to be tested?**

No, testing should be done within your normal hours of work.

### **How is the test requested?**

The test is not ordered on TRAK but instead a paper request form will be used. Your CHI number has been provided to your manager for inclusion on the request form. A CHI number is an automatically generated anonymous patient number. The first six numbers are your birth date. You will most likely have a CHI number if you have been to any hospital service within the past 6 years. If you have not attended hospital in the past 6 years, you may not have a CHI number but the test can still be requested using your other details (name, home address and date of birth).

### **Why do you need my mobile phone number?**

Your mobile phone number is required so that you can be contacted if your test is positive.

You will be called by a member of the Test & Protect Team and OHS if your test is positive.

**Please Note: you will not be contacted if your test is negative**

### **I don't have a mobile phone, how will you contact me with the results?**

Please advise your manager of an alternative method of contacting you.

### **Who will have access to my test results?**

Your confidentiality will be maintained. However, the following staff will be informed of any positive result on a need to know basis:

- Occupational Health Team
- Your line manager
- Health Protection Team

Everyone handling your results will be bound by the rules of confidentiality and must not disclose your results to anyone else, without permission, unless there is a clear and justifiable need in order to protect others.

### **Do I have to have a test?**

The test is voluntary and consent is implied if you agree to self-swab or partner-swab.

### **What if I don't want to be tested?**

If you do not agree to this testing, this should be discussed with your manager and you can also get advice from Occupational Health. There may be some restrictions put on your work activity if you do not agree to be tested, but you should not feel compelled to be tested if you do not wish to be.

### **I haven't been contacted about the result of my swab test?**

You will not be contacted if your test is negative. You can continue to work but should you develop any symptoms, however minor, you should not attend work and should request a repeat test at the following link:

<https://covid19.nhsgrampian.org/for-nhs-grampian-staff/staff-covid-19-testing/>

### **What if the result is positive?**

You will be contacted by The Test & Protect Team and Occupational Health if the result of your swab test is positive. This may mean you need to leave work during your shift, but your line manager will be informed. The Test & Protect Team will carry out contact tracing for close contacts out with the workplace. Occupational Health will inform your manager. You should isolate for at least 10 days and can return to work on day 11 if you have had no temperature for 48 hrs and are otherwise feeling well. Please note that the cough and loss of taste/smell may persist for several weeks and does not prevent you returning to work. Your household must also complete the 14 days household-isolation.

Additional information regarding developing symptoms and being absent from the workplace can be found: <https://covid19.nhsgrampian.org/for-nhs-grampian-staff/staff-qa/>

### **What happens if one of my colleagues is positive?**

In line with the Test and Protect programme, occupational and social contact tracing will be carried out by Public Health. You will be contacted by a contact tracer if appropriate.

### **If I have tested positive will I need to be re-tested?**

Once you have had a positive result you will not be re-tested through the staff testing scheme unless you develop new symptoms associated with Covid-19. A further

detected result should be treated as a new infectious period, and self-isolation repeated.

**I have Covid-19 symptoms. Do I need to be tested elsewhere?**

Staff who have Covid-19 symptoms should follow the process of testing for all symptomatic staff. Please see link: <https://covid19.nhsgrampian.org/for-nhs-grampian-staff/staff-covid-19-testing/>