

Covid-19 Testing in care environments: advice for care providers

12 June 2020

Today's session



1. **Testing**

- National strategy
- Testing in North Yorkshire
- Types of tests available
- How to undertake tests
- Capacity and Consent

2. **National Test & Trace programme**

3. **PPE update**

4. **Safeguarding in care settings**

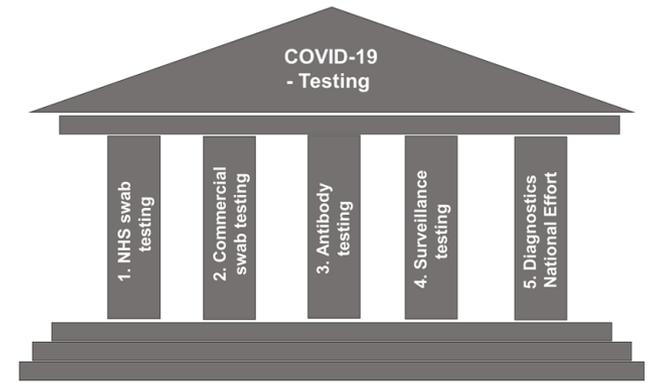
5. **Updated symptoms list**

6. **Q&A session**

NHS

Test and Trace

Testing – National Strategy



- 4 April - Government Strategy released
 - *“anyone who needs a test should have one”*
- ‘Five pillars’
 1. **Increase ‘swab’ testing** – by NHS and PHE for people with Covid-19 symptoms and frontline medical keyworkers
 2. **Commercial swab testing** – by commercial partners for critical key workers in the NHS, social care and other sectors
 3. **Antibody testing** – blood tests to identify people who have had Covid-19
 4. **Surveillance testing** – led by PHE using a national random survey approach
 5. **Establishing a national diagnostics industry** – working with commercial partners and universities to build testing capacity nationally.
- Target of 100,000 tests by the end of April 2020

Testing – National Strategy

23 April - eligibility for testing expanded to:

- *‘all essential workers in England, and members of their households who are showing symptoms of coronavirus’.*
- people aged over 65 with symptoms
- social care workers and residents in care homes, with or without symptoms *‘to investigate outbreaks and ... as part of a rolling program to test all care homes’.*

May 2020 - Online portal for care homes launched

- homes can apply for coronavirus testing kits to test residents and staff
- apply whether or not residents or staff have coronavirus symptoms
- Initially only for care homes that look after older people or people with dementia – expanded on 8 June to other homes

Mobile Testing



- Mobile testing in North Yorkshire operating in different sites, run by Department for Health and Social Care
- Test must be booked before attending. Can be booked for :
 - anyone showing symptoms
 - essential workers
- Tests can be booked from 8pm the night before.
- People who don't have access to the internet, or who have difficulty with digital portals, can ring the new 119 service to book their test.

For up to date advice on test sites and to book tests visit:

northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-test-sites-north-yorkshire

North Yorkshire and York – test prioritising

A four-step process has been developed to help our Local Resilience Forum prioritise requests for testing.

This includes consideration of the following criteria (ranked in order)

- 1. Is the request because of a new outbreak of Covid-19**
- 2. Has the request come from a large care home (over 50 residents)**
- 3. Is there a history of previous outbreaks**
- 4. Is there other information which suggests a high risk environment**

Testing in care environments

- About the tests we have

Radox and Non-Radox

- End to end process (delivery and collection)

- Ordering
- On the day
- Re-collections

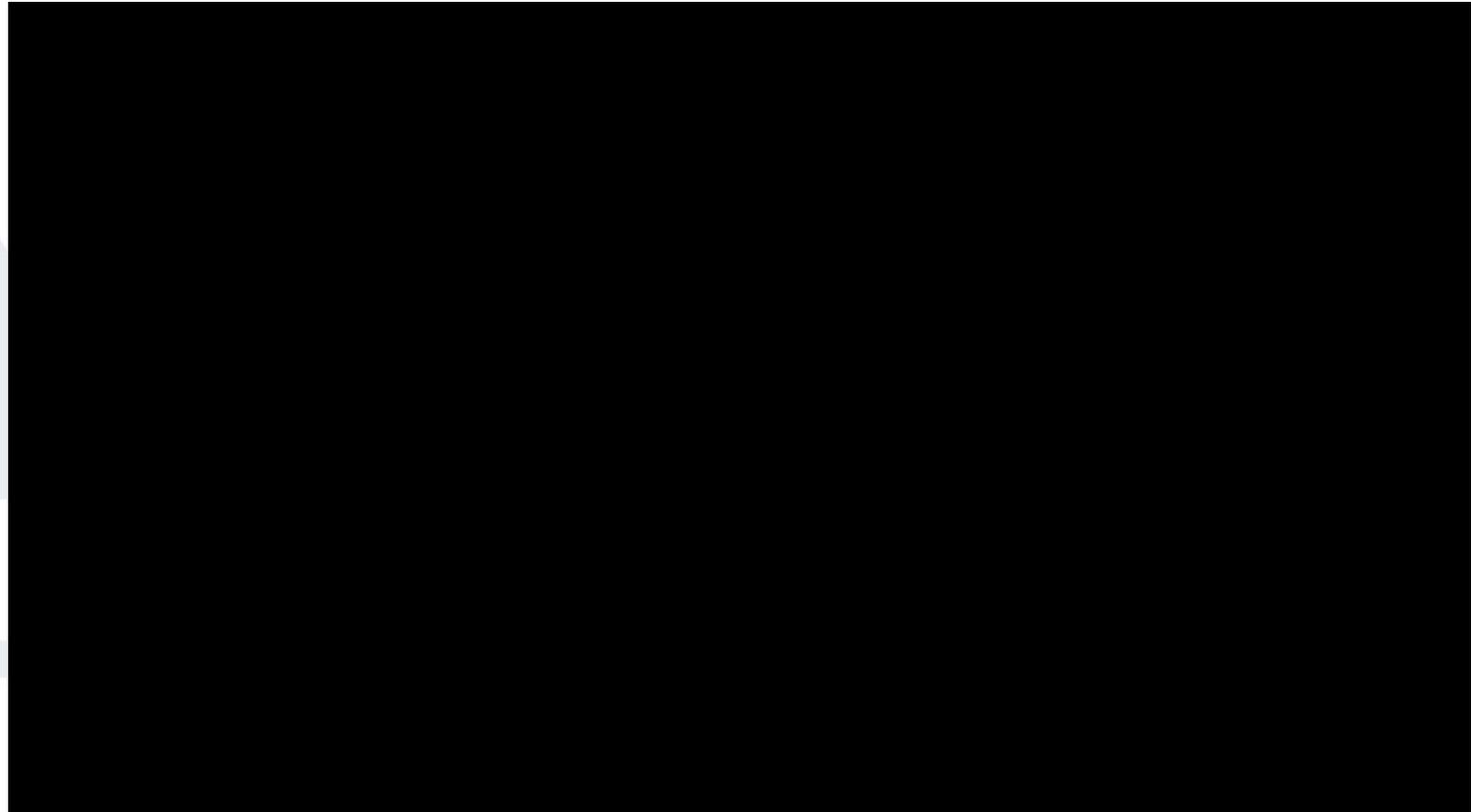
- Storage of swabs

Ambient/Room Temperature



Testing in care environments

Department of Health and Social Care Demonstration of Care Home Swabbing



<https://youtu.be/1l0jcv37WzI>

Capacity and Consent



- Tests must be done in a way that complies with the Mental Capacity Act
- Must provide people with relevant information to make decision
- If person cannot consent, need to be clear that testing is in their best interests.
- If person is likely to resist the swab and significant restraint is required, and the justification to undertake the test is only to protect others (therefore not in the best interests of the individual) consider if test needed / alternative options
- MCA allows some restraint / restrictions – but only if in a person's best interests
- E.g. person may be treated as COVID positive and may then need to apply the appropriate guidance for self-isolation for up to 14 days.
- Decision making tool is available to assist

Test and Trace programme



Test and Trace

- Anyone in England with coronavirus symptoms can get a test.
- If positive you'll be contacted and required to log into [NHS Test and Trace](#) website. You will be asked for:
 - Name, date of birth and postcode and who you live with
 - Places you visited recently
 - Details of people you have been in close contact with in the 48 hours
- Close contacts are people you:
 - spend 15 minutes or more with at a distance of less than 2m
 - have direct contact with (e.g. sexual partners, household members)
 - had face-to-face conversations with at a distance of less than 1m
- No-one will be told your identity.

Test & Trace scenarios – social care

1. **Staff member caring (close contact) for COVID-19 positive resident whilst wearing appropriate PPE:** Generally no need to self-isolate
2. **Staff member caring (close contact) for COVID-19 positive resident whilst wearing PPE but has been PPE breach:** Risk assess (length/nature of exposure, proximity, symptom severity, tasks undertaken)
3. **Staff member in close contact of another staff member whilst not wearing PPE (e.g. in staff room, sharing lift to work):** Self-isolate 14 days (7 from symptom onset if develop symptoms)
4. **Staff member in close contact with person in the community who is COVID-19 positive:** Self-isolate 14 days (7 from symptom onset if develop symptoms)

Usual guidance on self-isolation if household contact is symptomatic or COVID-19 positive still applies

Safeguarding in Care home settings



- Safeguarding duties under the Care Act 2014 have remained unchanged during the pandemic.
- There has been a reduction of the amount of concerns received related to people living in a care setting.
- Our statutory duty remains to raise a concern if a person requiring care and support, is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- Care homes have been working under exceptional pressure during this period and the priority has been to ensure residents are safe and well.
- We encourage you to speak to your local safeguarding manager if you have any safeguarding concerns.
- NYCC will work with you as a provider and with wider partners to support you to keep people safe and maintain appropriate levels of care and support.

PPE latest



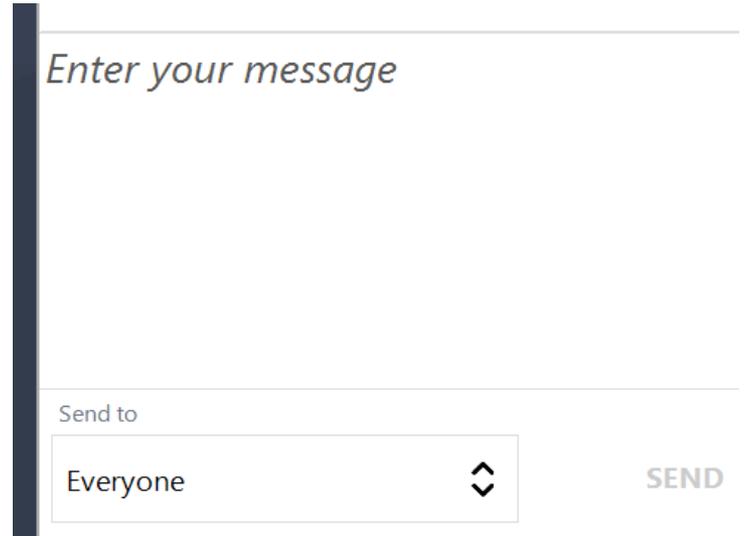
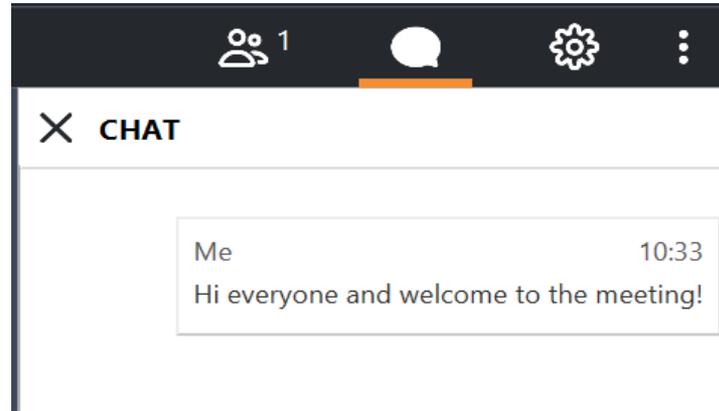
- There are no changes to PPE guidance for care homes or domiciliary care
- We have a flowchart which outlines the appropriate PPE to be used depending on the setting and contact
- This flowchart is updated as and when new guidance is published
- Any queries or issues with PPE can be flagged through daily calls with NYCC care home contact workers or by email to socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk
- PPE portal online – for small providers initially but will expand

Symptoms Update

- Government has added anosmia (loss of, or change in, sense of taste or smell) to the list of symptoms of Covid-19.
- People experiencing a new, persistent cough and/or high temperature and/or anosmia are asked to follow self-isolation guidance.
- Washing hands, staying home or close to home, and social distancing still the most effective actions we can all take to tackle the virus.



Your questions



Useful information

- Apply for a Care Home Coronavirus Test: [here](#)
- Care Home Swabbing Guide for Non-Randox Kits: [link](#)
- How to self-swab (video): [link](#)
- Infection Prevention and Control Society: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
[Infection Prevention and Control for Nursing & Residential Care Homes](#)
- Facilitating compassionate care for patients dying with COVID-19: [link](#)
- COVID-19: Managing the COVID-19 pandemic in care homes for older people: [link](#)
- Information about COVID-19 in accessible formats and community languages: <https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/covidinfo>

