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To registered care at home providers - adults
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Directors of Public Health
Chief Social Work officers
Chief officers
Chief Executives NHS Boards and Local
Authorities NHS Board Nurse and Medical
Directors

25 November 2020

Dear Colleague

Testing Expansion Plan for Care at Home

The Scottish Government's COVID-19 Test and Protect Pathways Programme has been considering the best ways to expand testing across adult social care since the announcement of a revised and expanded testing strategy on 23 October. This expansion is only possible because of increases in our testing capacity – for adult social care the expansion has been enabled by new testing options, particularly lateral flow devices.

The purpose of the letter is to provide further specific detail on the areas of testing within the Testing Expansion Plan, as announced by the Cabinet Secretary in Parliament earlier today.

Final pathway development is extremely complex for this part of the social care workforce given the wide range of service delivery models, so working with local partners, providers and workforce bodies such as the unions will be critical. There has already been early engagement with clinicians and with care at home provider representatives and this will continue in the coming weeks to finalise the design and then the logistics of delivery.

The Plan will significantly expand testing, including to the care at home workforce. All permanent and visiting staff and personal assistants to both a person's own home and where a person's home is within a residential setting/sheltered housing complex, plus staff who work in adult day centres are included in the expanded testing arrangements. Staff will be included regardless of role, if they undertake two or more visits to any setting per week and come within 1 metre of social care recipients. A table that sets out further details outlined in today's statement is included below.

We plan to roll out expanded testing for sheltered housing and residential settings from 11 January, with roll out to care at home services from 18 January, in areas of highest viral prevalence first.

Further details will be provided including signposting to specific guidance no later than the 18 December but earlier where possible.



I hope this is helpful and we will be in touch soon to keep you updated on progress.

Donna Bell

Donna Bell
Director of Mental Health and Social Care

Annex – testing expansion timeline

TESTING EXPANSION IMPLEMENTATION – SUMMARY TIMELINE

Category of Testing	Start Date	End Date
1. Hospital Admissions – emergency	End November 2020 (full commencement)	Ongoing regular testing – no end date.
2. Hospital Admissions – planned	Mid December 2020 (full commencement)	Ongoing regular testing – no end date.
3. Healthcare Workers	Early December 2020	All workers included by end December 2020. Ongoing regular testing – no end date.
4. Social Care - Care Home Visitors	<p>Initial roll out to a maximum of 12 early adopter care homes across 4 local authority areas (w/c 7 December).</p> <p>Subject to successful delivery further roll out to small number of care homes will continue across an additional 7 local authority areas before the 21 December.</p> <p>Full roll out to all care homes will commence in w/c 11 January, learning from the early adopters and continuing over the course of January and early February.</p> <p>Christmas PCR testing will take place for 3 weeks from 21 December 2020.</p>	<p>Roll out to all care homes completed by early February 2021. Ongoing regular testing – no end date.</p> <p>Christmas PCR Testing will end on 10 January 2021</p>
5. Social Care - Visiting Professionals	<p>Mid December 2020 – for all NHS professionals.</p> <p>From 11 January 2021 - for non-NHS professionals, those working in Level 3 & 4 areas will be prioritised.</p>	<p>Roll out is expected to conclude by end February 2021. Ongoing regular testing – no end date.</p>
6. Social Care – Care at Home	<p>From 11 January 2021 - for sheltered housing and residential settings, in line with the substantive care home program roll out. .</p> <p>From 18 January 2021 - for care at home services,</p>	<p>Roll out is expected to conclude by end March 2021. Ongoing regular testing – no end date.</p>

	commencing with those areas in Levels 3 and 4 first.	
7. Higher & Further Education Students	30 November 2020	Expected to conclude on 9 December 2020. Further phase of testing being planned for student return in January 2021.
8. Community Asymptomatic Testing	Early December 2020	Mid December 2020 (plan for one week of testing - may be flexibility to extend slightly). Plan to scale up (learning from December initiatives) in the new year in other areas of Scotland – no planned end date.
9. School (staff)	From January 2021 (pathfinders)	End date of pathfinders TBC in discussion with local partners Further roll out beyond that point, considering learning and outcome of pathfinders.