



NHS Staff Testing for Coronavirus

Many of you will be aware of the proposed national roll out of antigen testing for coronavirus which has been stated at government press briefings and in the national media. This testing process is yet to be available at scale. Ahead of this, partners across the Oxfordshire health and social care system are aware that the impact of self isolation, when it may not be necessarily required is having a considerable impact upon the available workforce.

All partners are clear that NHS staff must self-isolate as per PHE guidelines if they, or any household contact, develop a persistent cough or fever. However, there are certain circumstances in which prompt exclusion of COVID-19 in a symptomatic staff member or symptomatic household contact would not only provide peace of mind for that individual but also enable the staff member to return to work more promptly. This will help thus reduce the impact of non COVID- related staff absence on all our services and on other staff.

Our testing programme has been developed at pace in partnership with the Oxford University Hospitals NHSFT and Oxford health NHSFT and will be delivered locally at the Churchill hospital to enable individuals working in clinical areas or key to the COVID-19 response to remain safely at work, in recognition of the urgency of getting staff testing in place.

Testing for staff is now available for those in key clinical roles as staff members or their household contacts who fall into one of the 3 groups below:

1. Group 1: within the first 2- 4 days of a staff member's household contact self-isolating with a fever and/or new persistent cough (testing for the household contact)
2. Group 2: within days 2- 4 of a staff member self-isolating with a fever and/or new persistent cough (testing for the staff member)
3. Group 3: within the first 2-4 days of a staff member developing a fever and/or new persistent cough while self-isolating with a known COVID positive household contact (testing for the staff member)

If you fall into one of these groups, please contact the Community Swabbing team that you are self- isolating and promptly complete one of the two attached reporting forms ('A' for staff member and 'B' for household contacts (see below)). Forms can be sent by email to ouh-tr.staffcovidtesting@nhs.net . Upon receipt a staff member will contact you to discuss the testing applicability further. Please ensure that you have given a direct contact number within your details.

Please note that prompt self-referral is required. Testing cannot be offered after 4 days of symptoms because it is less accurate and may put staff and patients at risk by producing a false negative.

These tests must be used to prioritise the return of staff who are currently self-isolating. Testing numbers are currently limited, and completion of this form does not guarantee a test. The decision to test rests with the community swabbing team based on strict assessment criteria and a



prioritisation protocol. Not all will be offered testing. In the absence of a negative test result, staff must follow strict PHE self-isolation advice.

Further details regarding antibody testing for staff who believe they may have had COVID-19 will be circulated as it is made available. Antibody assays to look for previous infection are in an advanced stage of development, and we hope to be able to offer those to staff in future.

Please can I ask all staff contacting the testing service to ensure that you show a kind and respectful attitude to your staff colleagues and that you are understanding of the demand for testing. Our testing programme has been developed and delivered locally by staff and volunteers for staff and the capacity to test is not always guaranteed as patient testing will take priority.

Pete McGrane

02/04/2020

Clinical Director, Community Services.



COVID-19 Screening

Triage Form-A: STAFF MEMBERS

Please complete all parts and follow instructions at the bottom. Do not submit this form if you have had symptoms for over 4 days as the last date for testing is day 4.

Name:		
Date of Birth:		
Role:		
Organisation		
Phone number:		
Current Symptoms (tick which apply)	Fever > 37.8 or feverish symptoms: <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of onset of fever: Click here to enter text.
	Persistent cough: <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of onset of cough: Click here to enter text.
	Hoarseness : <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Nasal discharge/ congestion: <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Shortness of breath: <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sore throat: <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Wheezing: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sneezing: <input type="checkbox"/>		

I understand and consent for my information and swab results to be recorded on EPR and communicated to me within 48 hours by the staff COVID testing team / Microbiology at the above telephone number.

Date: Click here to enter text.	Name: Click here to enter text. <i>Please type your name and send back using your personal or work email address</i>
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Please email this completed form to:

ouh-tr.staffcovidtesting@nhs.net



COVID-19 Screening

Form B Triage Form- Household members

Please complete this form if you are an asymptomatic staff member with a household contact with symptoms that have developed in the last few days and email to the address below. Do not submit this form if they have had symptoms for over 4 days as the last date for testing is day 4.

Household member info:		
Household member's name:	Click here to enter text.	
Household member's Date of Birth:	Click here to enter text.	
Contact number:	Click here to enter text.	
Household member's current symptoms (tick which apply)	Fever > 37.8 or feverish symptoms: <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of onset of fever: Click here to enter a date.
	Persistent cough: <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of onset of cough:
	Hoarseness <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Nasal discharge/ congestion <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Shortness of breath <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sore throat <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Wheezing <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sneezing <input type="checkbox"/>		
Staff member's info:		
Staff member's name:		
Role:		
Organisation		

Please email this completed form to:

ouh-tr.staffcovidtesting@nhs.net