



## HEALTH CARE WORKER - Testing guide

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

With thanks to Dr Penny Blackwell, Lead GP for Shared Care Pathology, Derbyshire

**We will be testing people with the antigen (PCR) test in the following way:**

- 1) Keyworker who is symptomatic day 2 - day 5, but has been fever free for 48 hours **and** are well enough to work (because you can't go to work if you've had a fever in the last 48h)
- 2) The symptomatic contacts of keyworkers that are in self isolation (including children).

**We will not test the following staff members:**

- 1) Staff who are not feeling well enough to work (testing makes no difference to them getting back to work).
- 2) Staff who have had symptoms for more than 5 days. The turnaround for the swabbing process is likely to be 24- 48 hours (so by the time you get your result, you'll have done your self-isolation for 7 days anyway)
- 3) Staff who have had a fever within the last 48 hours. Staff will have to wait until they are fever free for 48 hours before they can be tested (you can't go back to work until fever free for 48h).

**Keyworker is someone who must get within 1m of a pt. (e.g. to examine) - most likely GP, ANP / ACP, practice nurses, HCA and some clinical pharmacists and physios in general practice.**

### HCW Testing FAQs

1. **I've been off for 6 days why cant I get a test?** *Because you are nearly through your 7 days of isolation and testing won't get you back to work any earlier*
2. **I'm just back from 14 days of self isolating. What happens if I develop a cough next week?** *You will be able to present yourself for a PCR swab test at day 2*
3. **How do you prioritise who gets a test?** *This is difficult, but needs to be those staff first, who are critical to business continuity, will be seeing patients at <1m and cannot work from home*
4. **Does a positive result mean I will have to see COVID + patients?** *No more than any other member of staff or what is reasonably expected of any staff in the practice*
5. **How is the swab taken?** *One swab is used twice: to swab the pharynx and then up a nostril, high into the nasal cavity*
6. **What if I'm in the high risk / vulnerable group and cant leave the house but am an NHS worker?** *Having a swab test is unlikely to change whether you may work or not*
7. **How long will it take to get the result?** *The turnaround time is 24-48h at the moment*

The information provided in this document is correct at the time of publication.  
Please see the Derby and Derbyshire LMC website for any revisions.



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