

Message

From: RAMSAY, Colin (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND) [/O=MAIL/OU=NHSFB13/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FZXH4CPG]
Sent: 05/05/2020 20:10:57
To: BLACK, Mary (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND) [mary.black1@nhs.net]
CC: HARLEY, Kate (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND) [kateharley@nhs.net]; MCMENAMIN, Jim (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND) [jim.mcmenamin@nhs.net]; GOLDBERG, David (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND) [david.goldberg2@nhs.net]
Subject: FW: Guidance on care homes testing

For information.

I am unsure what has precipitated this request or is it an instruction.

Colin

From: RAMSAY, Colin (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND)
Sent: 05 May 2020 20:09
To: 'Nicola.Steedman@scotland.gsi.gov.uk' <Nicola.Steedman@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; MCMENAMIN, Jim (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND) <jim.mcmenamin@nhs.net>; Docherty Gabriel (NHS LANARKSHIRE) <gabe.docherty@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; Andrew.Riley2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; Gill.Hawkins@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; Graham.Ellis@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; DCMOHealth.COVID19@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; directorcovid19testing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; cmo@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Guidance on care homes testing

Nicola

Thanks. My understanding is that you wish me to share with you for onward transmission to the Cab Sec. Heath, any draft versions of guidance that relates to residential care homes for the elderly, and which has anything to do with implementation of the policy on care home testing announced by the FM last Friday. I would be very grateful if you could confirm that I have understood your request correctly?

I am however, a little puzzled by this email on the basis that I think we have been sharing relevant draft material with you and SG CMOD colleagues already.

The document you appended attributed to DsPH was one that I wrote for the DsPH, based on a discussion that I had with Gabe and others at a meeting earlier that day; this crystallised the agreed views of the DsPH on an earlier set of proposals. That is what I believe was then submitted under Gabe's name to you and colleagues at SAH; I did in fact share the same document as a final draft with Andrew and others in CMOD in anticipation of Gabe's assent, mainly because we were given a deadline of until 7:30 PM that evening to ensure that comment were submitted to SG, following earlier discussion of the matter at a meeting chaired by Annabel Turpie. I submitted the version to Andrew and CMOD colleagues at approximately 7:15 pm on that Thursday evening, which I am sure he then passed directly to you. I can check the emails to verify all this if necessary.

On Friday the FM then announced the new policy on Care Home COVID-19 testing, which as you know we had made considerable efforts to amend up to the last minute to try to change aspects to more closely match what had been advocated in the original proposals in the DPH (Gabe) paper. As soon as the FM statement was made public, I and colleagues in the HPS Guidance Team started to draft a paper to assist NHSB HPT's to implement the new testing policy in the certain knowledge that it was highly likely that at least one Care Home outbreak would occur that weekend, which sadly as we now occurred on Skye and elsewhere.

In view of the lack of agreed evidence-based advice/ recommendations on what action should be taken with respect to individuals who are asymptomatic who test COVID positive, on this issue, as confirmed by NERVTAG, HPS Guidance Team concluded that the only reasonable action would be to identify a range of “options” for action to manage care home residents and staff with positive test results. These were the five options we set in that options appraisal paper. This was circulated to all the NHSB HPTs that Friday night in confidence as a draft set of options and was also shared with CMOD colleagues. We have published nothing relevant to the situation since.

Following discussions at a selection of meetings yesterday (Monday 4th May) we are now refining the material in the options appraisal document, with a view to creating an annex on managing Care Home Covid Test positive residents and staff, to append to our existing HPS Care Home Guidance document. That is where things now stand.

If I understand correctly, you would now like us to send you the draft version of this proposed Care Home Guidance document annex before we complete and publish it. Is this correct?

Regards

Colin

From: Nicola.Steedman@scotland.gsi.gov.uk <Nicola.Steedman@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>

Sent: 05 May 2020 19:11

To: RAMSAY, Colin (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND) <colin.ramsay@nhs.net>; MCMENAMIN, Jim (PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND) <jim.mcmenamin@nhs.net>; Docherty Gabriel (NHS LANARKSHIRE) <gabe.docherty@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk>

Cc: NR@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; Andrew.Riley2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; Gill.Hawkins@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; Graham.Ellis@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; DCMOHealth.COVID19@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; directorcovid19testing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; cmo@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: Guidance on care homes testing

Hi Colin, Jim,

We had a meeting called by the Cab Sec today on care homes testing yesterday and I'm just trying to follow up an action from that which I'm hoping you can help me with. It's about testing guidance for care homes – but in this case not really about the 'options paper' re: asymptomatic positive staff that I know CMO is currently considering and therefore slightly separate to this.

It's in relation to any guidance that will either be produced or amended in light of the FM's public announcement and hence policy last week in regards to care home testing – the foundation of which was the DPH paper I've attached.

Cabinet Secretary for Health called a meeting yesterday with policy colleagues, SG clinical representatives and DPH representatives (Gabe, copied in, and also Jennifer). This was to discuss care homes testing, and in particular, implementation of the policies confirmed late last week by the FM and pertaining to the DPH paper attached. She has expressly asked that she has sight of any proposed guidance which is to be issued in regard to care homes testing and therefore I'm asking that you copy us in to any draft guidance (as I know that you do) so that we can also share this with the Cabinet Secretary to update her. We also agreed at the meeting yesterday (as I am sure you will too) following a very important point made by Gabe, that any guidance on testing in care homes would hopefully explicitly emphasise that decisions to be taken need to be based on risk assessment and expert opinion of DPH and IPC experts – as there will clearly be complexities to consider in this environment and population.

Gabe, please feel free to add anything to this if I have missed anything in the point that was made.

In the meantime, we are ever grateful to you and the guidance team at HPS/PHS for your necessary flexibility in producing guidance during this changing and challenged time. We are reliant on your expertise here and in no way trying to undermine that, believe me. We all share the same goal here of protecting the vulnerable population of

patients in care homes who are currently disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and all of our combined efforts, including those of the Cabinet Secretary are towards that end.

With warm regards,

Nicola.

Dr Nicola Steedman

Interim Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Scottish Government

nicola.steedman@gov.scot

**Irrelevant &
Sensitive**

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