

Message

From: McBride, Michael [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=9999965]
Sent: 28/03/2020 14:24:30
To: Pengelly, Richard [richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk]
CC: Gordon, David [david.gordon@health-ni.gov.uk]; Geoghegan, Lourda [lourda.geoghegan@health-ni.gov.uk]
Subject: PHA : COVID-19 daily testing figures

Richard

Have spoken with Lourda who is just now following up. I will discuss with her following those discussions and revert to you thereafter.

Michael

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From: Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Saturday, 28 Mar 2020, 12:49 pm
To: McBride, Michael <Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: Gordon, David <David.Gordon@health-ni.gov.uk>, Geoghegan, Lourda <Lourda.Geoghegan@health-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: PHA : COVID-19 daily testing figures

M

Can we get a word about how best I can move to sort this - maybe we need to think about extreme measures. But it needs done urgently - it is becoming a confidence issue for the Minister.

R.

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From: DoH Minister <minister@health-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Saturday, 28 Mar 2020, 12:43 pm
To: Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: McBride, Michael <Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk>, DoH SpAd <spad@health-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: PHA : COVID-19 daily testing figures

Richard,

The issue with PHA and their reporting, needs fixed & fixed now, this is now a mill stone around all our necks, can we pull the daily surveillance report into the Department?

regards,

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health.

From: DoH SpAd <spad@health-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Saturday, 28 Mar 2020, 11:52 am
To: Gordon, David <David.Gordon@health-ni.gov.uk>, Hugo Van Woerden <Hugo.VanWoerden@hscni.net>, Brid Farrell <Brid.Farrell@hscni.net>, Wilson, Stephen (PHA) <Stephen.Wilson@hscni.net>, DoH Minister <minister@health-ni.gov.uk>, Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>, Geoghegan, Lourda <Lourda.Geoghegan@health-ni.gov.uk> **NR**
NR <spad@health-ni.gov.uk>, **NR** <spad@health-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: COVID-19 daily testing figures

Thanks David, suggest no response is issued until we get exactly to the bottom of what is really going on here.

There are serious discrepancies in what the Minister is being told and what is actually happening. I also continue to have serious concerns about the quality of information being published in the daily PHA surveillance report.

Hugo/Brid - the Minister & I both asked for clarity yesterday, and with all respect we didn't get it. I was even told yesterday that's it's not the time to be getting into the detail. It is.

It is my understanding that on the 17th March in a teleconference between DoH, public health and virology it was agreed to expand the categories for priority testing to include 1) healthcare workers and 2) tests requested by medical director or nominated senior person. Silver was notified of this change that evening. Silver was then tasked to do a quick turnaround piece to define exactly who was to be in the HCW group. Laboratory services I believe were also agreeable to expanding the testing groups.

I am concerned by the email from PHA press office to DoH press office yesterday. Does that mean, as it tends to suggest, that HCW testing is not being covered by the surveillance?

I asked the question yesterday, but it wasn't answered, so I'll ask again - how many HCWs across Northern Ireland have been tested to date?

Can we have confirmation that the expansion for testing agreed 11 days ago was relayed to Trusts and has been fully implemented?

Can we also have confirmation that all testing, including those carried out by the Trusts, is being reported through the daily surveillance report? It was concerning that the Northern Trust had reported a nil increase in testing in yesterday's report, even though I believe they commenced their own testing on Wednesday.

These are direct questions which we now require direct answers to.

Mark

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From: Gordon, David <David.Gordon@health-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Saturday, 28 Mar 2020, 8:16 am
To: DoH SpAd <spad@health-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: COVID-19 daily testing figures