

From: Chrishan Kamalan
Acting Deputy Director COVID-19

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Cleared by: As above

Date: 9 April 2020

MINISTERIAL ADVICE

For decision by: Minister for Health and Social Services

Subject	Testing criteria for Coronavirus Key Workers
100 word summary	<p>The purpose of the advice is to agree the testing criteria for NHS and Non-NHS workers defined as 'Coronavirus Key Workers'.</p> <p>This advice only relates to people who have symptoms of the virus and tests that detects the virus (swab or antigen testing). It does not consider antibody testing.</p>
Timing	Urgent
Recommendation	<p>Minister is asked to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interim policy at Doc.1 • The publication of the interim policy
Decision report	This decision does require a Decision Report, which may be published at any point.

ADVICE

Background

1. Under the direction of the Chief Scientific Adviser for Health, officials have worked with a range of stakeholders and experts to produce a strategic approach to testing – National COVID-19 Test Plan – to tackle the COVID-19 epidemic within Wales. MA/VG/1136/20 refers.
2. The National COVID-19 Technical Testing Plan sets out a number of testing approaches to be delivered in a blended, scaled way in order to maximise the impact.
3. Work stream 1 is focused on scaling of testing for COVID-19 infection through detection of viral nucleic acid for patients, vulnerable groups and front-line staff (antigen testing). The development of testing criteria for Coronavirus Key Workers sits within this work stream.

Funding Requirements

4. MA/VG/1136/20 set out initial estimates of cost and MA/VG/1270/20 provided updated costs. As set out in MA/VG/1270/20 revised costs for work stream 1 from April to July are now estimated at a minimum of **£36.6m**.
5. The proposals contained in this MA are covered within the costs identified in MA/VG/1270/20.

Advice

6. The purpose of the policy is to:
 1. **Enable Coronavirus Key Worker staff who have tested negative for SARS-CoV2 to return to work earlier if well enough and asymptomatic.**
 - It applies to workers, who according to their employer, cannot observe the seven day self-isolation or 14 day household quarantining due business continuity reasons; it also assumes that a person testing negative does not risk spreading other illness (e.g. influenza) in the work place.
 - It also applies to one symptomatic individual who lives in the same household as an asymptomatic key worker. Such that if the symptomatic household member tests negative for SARS-CoV2 the key-worker can return to work before 14 days.
 2. **Identify employees and places or work where COVID-19 positive staff may have infected patients, shielded individuals or vulnerable people.**

3. Describe the process of scaling the availability of COVID-19 tests for Coronavirus Key Workers whilst new systems are put in place and capacity increases.

7. This interim policy of testing Key Workers is to prioritise resources for the testing of Police staff groups and Social Care staff. This policy will be revisited as testing capacity increases, flow and demand is understood to accommodate a wider array of key-workers in areas of most need.

Operational delivery – 06 April to 20 April 2020

8. The current process of managing requests for testing of front line NHS workers will remain the same, in that testing arrangements within NHS organisations will continue to undertake this task. NHS staff testing will continue to be prioritised CEM/CMO/2020/8
- Acute Medical Assessment Units
 - Emergency Departments
 - Critical Care Units/Intensive Care Units
 - Primary Care
 - EMS frontline NHS Ambulance staff
9. The following approach will be taken in the roll-out of testing Key Workers (initially prioritised for Police staff groups and Social Care staff):
- 'Drive in' testing facilities will be opened in the community in a phased across Wales (starting with the drive-in centre in Cardiff Football Stadium will opened on a trial basis from 07 April).
 - Community drop off and collect service will be piloted (Amazon based service expected to commence from 13 April).
10. Turnaround target times for testing from request to result is between 24-48 hours, depending on setting and urgency. Most antigen tests are currently turned around in 24 hours.
11. If demand for testing exceeds capacity to deliver testing such that turnaround times is breached (72+ hours) the policy will immediately be reviewed. If demand is lower than forecast or additional capacity becomes available the policy will immediately be reviewed.

Communications and media activity

12. Officials propose to publish the interim policy at Doc.1. If agreed, the Minister may be minded to also issue a press release.

Annex 1: ASSURANCE AND COPY RECIPIENTS**CLEARANCE TRACKING**

Aspect	Tracking	Yes	No	N/A	Clearance no.
Finance	Financial implications over £50,000?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Group Finance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GH2020/7531
	Cleared by Strategic Budgeting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Local Government Finance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	Legal issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by relevant lawyers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Governance	Novel and contentious issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Corporate Governance Centre of Excellence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

In clearing this MA, I confirm that I, Chrishan Kamalan have quality assured this advice, ensuring it is provided on the basis of evidence, accurately presents the options and facts and I am accountable for the recommendations made

I am satisfied that the recommended decision or action, if agreed, would be lawful, affordable and comply with all relevant statutory obligations. Welsh Government policy priorities and cross portfolio implications have been fully considered in line with delivery of the government objectives.

I have fully considered the statement of assurance contained in the MA guidance to ensure all relevant considerations have been taken into account and that the actions and decisions take account of regularity, propriety and value for money.

COPY LIST

All mandatory copy recipients (as indicated in the guidance). Additional copy recipients specifically interested in this advice:

- Andrew Goodall
- Rob Orford
- Alan Brace
- **Name Redacted**
- Frank Atherton
- Chris Jones
- Frances Duffy
- Jean White
- **NR**
- **Name Redacted**
- Samia Saeed-Edmonds
- Andrew Evans
- Fliss Bennee
- **Name Redacted**
- HSS Finance
- HSS Comms
- SB mailbox
- **Name Redacted**
- Margaret Davies