

COVID 19 Expert Advisory Group on Testing

Terms of Reference – 28 March 2020

Purpose

1. The key purpose of the group is to expand testing capacity in hospital and community services as quickly as possible, exploring all available options.

Role and Membership

2. The key role of the group is to develop the Northern Ireland approach to COVID 19 testing and to oversee/coordinate implementation of testing. This will include consideration of the following main areas:
 - Testing of hospital patients;
 - Testing of Health & Social Care workers, and key workers from other sectors across NI;
 - Rollout of Immunity testing (when reliably available);
 - Population Surveillance;
 - Develop and maintain a list of COVID testing approved for use in NI;
 - Maintain an inventory of non-HSC equipment/consumables & skills available and make recommendations for deployment to support testing across NI;
 - Oversight of supply logistics; and
 - Monitor developments across the UK and ROI and take appropriate action in NI.
3. Membership of the group is set out at **Annex 1**. Membership will be kept under review and may evolve to draw on relevant experience across the HSC and beyond as required.

Reporting

4. The group will report through the Chair to COVID Gold Command at least once per week and more often as required on key decisions/ developments. The group will also link with existing Bronze/ Silver/ Gold structures where necessary to progress key testing issues.

Frequency of meetings

5. The group will meet twice weekly by teleconference. Meetings will be held each Tuesday and Friday morning at 10.00am. The frequency of meetings will be kept under review.
6. Secretariat support will be provided by DoH COVID Strategic Surge Planning Directorate.

Membership

NR (Chair, PHA)

Lourda Geoghan (DoH)

Gillian Armstrong (DoH)

Name Redacted (PHA)

Name Redacted (Pathology Network Manager)

Matthew Costley (Adept Fellow, DoH)

Name Redacted (BHSCT Virology lab)

Name Redacted (SHSCT)

NR (tbc)

Prof Ian Young

BSO PaLS **NR** to be invited)

PHA Surveillance Cell (Seek nomination from **Names Redacted**)