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**From:** Geoghegan, Lourda [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=05E7907F983F4CDB97BE684A63AC1C37-LOURDA GEOGHEGAN D]  
**Sent:** 11/05/2020 09:40:01  
**To:** Olive MacLeod [Olive.MacLeod2@hscni.net]; Brid Farrell [Brid.Farrell@hscni.net]; [NR] [NR]@nias.hscni.net; [Names Redacted]@hscni.net; 'Hugo Van Woerden' [Hugo.VanWoerden@hscni.net]  
**CC:** 'Chief Executive of Public Health Agency - PA' [NR]@hscni.net; [Name Redacted]@health-ni.gov.uk; [NR]@health-ni.gov.uk; Chada, Naresh [naresh.chada@health-ni.gov.uk]; McBride, Michael [michael.mcbride@health-ni.gov.uk]; [Name Redacted]@health-ni.gov.uk; [NR] [NR]@rqia.org.uk; [Name Redacted]@hscni.net  
**Subject:** URGENT - IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED TESTING PROGRAMME FOR CARE HOMES  
**Importance:** High

Colleagues

Further to discussion on Friday afternoon to agree expansion of our testing programme in care homes -

Brid discussed with RVL on Friday and [NR] has confirmed that the RVL lab can process +200 samples per day to support our expanded testing programme in care homes.

CMO discussed with C Ex NIAS over the weekend and we have received confirmation that NIAS colleagues will provide mobile testing capability into our care homes this week. We understand that NIAS could provide up to 4 mobile testing teams (2 people each) commencing tomorrow Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. [NR] is leading on behalf of NIAS – I have copied [NR] above.

As discussed on Friday the initial priority for this expanded testing programme is the 36 homes which have had an outbreak identified and have reported cases in the last 7 days (per [NR] feedback).

There are a number of practical matters to be addressed and we would ask work on these commences as an urgent matter today – an immediate priority is confirmation of the sequencing/approach to testing of these 36 homes. As agreed on Friday work to advise/confirm the sequencing of testing of homes following these 36 is also required.

We also need to work up arrangements for reporting of test results/findings at a facility level - I think I saw a draft protocol circulated for comment in this regard? We will want to build on arrangements already in place, however we also need to think about the format and content of one overall report which will be used to update across organisations and at a regional level.

Minister will be attending the Executive meeting today and he will advise colleagues there that this extended testing programme is commencing immediately.

A number of other discussions/developments are in train – Brid is discussing mobile testing capability with the national programme also this morning, and we await that feedback/update.

We were provisionally planning to meet again tomorrow at 1pm, this time will not suit due to competing commitments (is a contact tracing meeting) – so can I suggest **we meet tomorrow Tues 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm?**  
Could you let us know if this suits please?

Our thanks to you all for progressing this programme.  
Lourda

Due to the high volume of incoming emails I may not be able to respond to your message, please contact me on numbers below if you need to speak to me about an urgent or pressing matter.

Dr Lourda Geoghegan  
Senior Medical Adviser COVID-19  
Department of Health NI  
Tel: [redacted] I&S  
Mob: [redacted] I&S

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**From:** Geoghegan, Lourda  
**Sent:** 08 May 2020 13:26  
**To:** 'Olive MacLeod' <Olive.MacLeod2@hscni.net>; 'Brid Farrell' <Brid.Farrell@hscni.net>; [redacted] NR (RQIA) [redacted] NR @rqia.org.uk>; Chada, Naresh <Naresh.Chada@health-ni.gov.uk>; 'CMO' <Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk>; Houston [redacted] NR @health-ni.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** 'Chief Executive of Public Health Agency - PA' [redacted] NR @hscni.net> [redacted] Name Redacted @health-ni.gov.uk> [redacted] Name Redacted @health-ni.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** HPRM: TESTING STRATEGY FOR CARE HOMES  
**Importance:** High

Colleagues – agenda for this afternoon’s meeting attached.  
Lourda

Due to the high volume of incoming emails I may not be able to respond to your message, please contact me on numbers below if you need to speak to me about an urgent or pressing matter.

Dr Lourda Geoghegan  
Senior Medical Adviser COVID-19  
Department of Health NI  
Tel: [redacted] I&S  
Mob: [redacted] I&S

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**From:** Geoghegan, Lourda  
**Sent:** 07 May 2020 16:07  
**To:** [redacted] Name Redacted @health-ni.gov.uk>; Olive MacLeod <Olive.MacLeod2@hscni.net>; Brid Farrell <Brid.Farrell@hscni.net>; [redacted] Name Redacted @rqia.org.uk>; Chada, Naresh <Naresh.Chada@health-ni.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** 'Chief Executive of Public Health Agency - PA' [redacted] NR @hscni.net> [redacted] Name Redacted @health-ni.gov.uk> [redacted] Name Redacted @health-ni.gov.uk>; 'CMO' <Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** HPRM: TESTING STRATEGY FOR CARE HOMES

[redacted] NR – thanks for inviting colleagues, I have briefly mentioned to Olive this afternoon and she confirm who will attend from PH/Health Protection.

I have also briefly updated Brid who will attend as Chair of EAG on Testing.

[redacted] NR - we welcome your input as you have a range of information on all care homes registered in NI.

By way of context – we need to agree a further extension of testing in care homes, per CMO's request following his discussions with Minister, our meeting tomorrow is to discuss and confirm an approach going forward. Our initial thinking is that a forward plan would/could be based on some form of testing a sample of care homes (residents and staff) on a rolling basis, homes would/could be stratified into groups potentially based on size and other relevant parameters and then a rolling programme would/could be based on a suitable sample from each risk stratum.

Thank in advance to all for joining this meeting tomorrow.  
Lourda

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Dr Lourda Geoghegan  
Senior Medical Adviser COVID-19  
Department of Health NI  
Tel: [redacted] I&S  
Mob: [redacted] I&S

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**From:** [redacted] NR  
**Sent:** 07 May 2020 15:59  
**To:** Olive MacLeod <[Olive.MacLeod2@hscni.net](mailto:Olive.MacLeod2@hscni.net)>; Brid Farrell <[Brid.Farrell@hscni.net](mailto:Brid.Farrell@hscni.net)> [redacted] NR (RQIA) <[\[redacted\]@rqia.org.uk](mailto:[redacted]@rqia.org.uk)>; Chada, Naresh <[Naresh.Chada@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Naresh.Chada@health-ni.gov.uk)>; Geoghegan, Lourda <[Lourda.Geoghegan@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Lourda.Geoghegan@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** 'Chief Executive of Public Health Agency - PA' [redacted] NR <[\[redacted\]@hscni.net](mailto:[redacted]@hscni.net)> [redacted] Name Redacted <[\[redacted\]@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@health-ni.gov.uk)> [redacted] Name Redacted <[\[redacted\]@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** TESTING STRATEGY FOR CARE HOMES

Dear all

Dr McBride has asked me to set up a conference call tomorrow at 3pm regarding Testing Strategy for Care Homes. Attendees are:

Olive MacLeod – to invite relevant colleagues  
Brid Farrell  
[redacted] NR  
Naresh Chada  
Lourda Geoghegan  
Michael McBride

Dial in details are

Tel: [redacted] Irrelevant &  
Participant Code: [redacted] I&S

Can you please confirm you are able to join this conference call.

Many thanks.

[redacted] NR

**NR**

Personal Secretary to Dr Michael McBride (Chief Medical Officer)  
Room C5.21  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast, BT4 3SQ

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