

Message

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Subject: COVID-19 testing - scaling up capacity

Dear all,

Thank you for your time today. It feels like we are making progress. This email sets out the work streams for scaling up to 100,000 COVID-19 antigen tests to protect frontline staff and maximise our workforce. Whilst there are other strands of testing work, we are totally focused on the delivery of this project only.

Work-strands

We've agreed the following urgent work strands. I know you are all on this already but summarised below for the avoidance of doubt, here is who we have agreed is leading each strand. Email addresses for everyone above so you can all get in contact with each other. When you are developing your proposals, please invite the relevant OLS lead to the discussions so we can help coordinate across the project.

No.	High level description	Lead on delivery plan	Coordinating lead (within OLS)
1	Tests and consumables: getting everything we need to sample and undertake the tests	Claire Wallace and Andrew Barber (TFS) plus QIAGEN and Randox	[NR]
2	Laboratory centres: Standing up the right number of laboratory centres, with the right equipment in the right places across the UK	Claire Wallace, Andrew Barber, Jeremy Farrar, [NR] (No.10) and John Bell	[NR]
3	Logistics: getting the samples to people and / or the test centres, then onto the laboratory centres	Doug Gurr (Amazon) with Claire Wallace and Andrew Barber for getting TFS stock and Jeremy Farrar on laboratory centre locations	[NR]
4	Digital build (for triaging, ordering and returning results)	[NR] and Hadley Beeman, with Doug Gurr (Amazon)	[NR]
5	Test centres: Standing up the right number of test centres across the UK	TBC, in discussion with Boots	[NR] and Aidan Fowler

6	Coordination and policy	N/A	NR
7	Commercial	Bev Jandziol (Cabinet Office Commercial) / all companies commercial leads	
8	Removing any regulatory barriers to any of the above	Graeme Tunbridge (MHRA)	

If there is a working contact we need to loop in, please can their details be shared asap? There will be a 7:30pm phone call convened by Will Warr at No.10. **Please can everyone urgently send their phone numbers to NR or this call? Each work stream will be asked to update on progress.**

If there are any show-stoppers or problems which emerge during the course of the day, please call NR or me immediately NR I&S Gary I&S. We are also putting in place a PMO function ASAP today.

In addition, we will need support from across DHSC, NHSE and PHE, to develop these plans. The most immediate of these is who the test is for, which NR will speak to PHE colleagues about. I have copied in PHE and NHSE colleagues. If you have strong views about how these work streams should be delivered, please immediately nominate a colleague or yourself to join the project group.

Gary

Gary Cook | Deputy Director | Office for Life Sciences

Department of Health and Social Care & Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

 I&S W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-life-sciences