

To: PS(I)

From: Name Redacted Julia Dudley
 Clearance: Kathy Hall
 Date: 28 March 2020
 Copy: MS(C)

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APPROACH TO KEYWORKER PRIORITISATION FOR COVID-19 TESTING

Issue	With COVID-19 testing being rolled out for keyworkers, we urgently need to confirm our approach to keyworker prioritisation, as this will dictate access to our limited testing supplies and capacity.
Timing	<p>Urgent (two working days)</p> <p>If there is a specific date: 29/03/2020</p> <p>For all timing requests, please provide a reason or explanation:</p> <p>We need to urgently agree our broad approach to key worker prioritisation ahead of a discussion at the General Public Sector Ministerial Implementation Group on Monday</p>
Recommendation	<p>That you confirm you are content with the proposed approach to prioritisation of keyworker testing – including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a short-term focus on NHS staff, whilst in pilot phase (up to 1000 tests per day), followed by social care domiciliary workers plus any other groups deemed as immediately essential due to legal or security reasons (e.g. to address vulnerability in prisons); ii. testing allocations for the four nations being agreed between CMOs for each country within the UK, based on population and disease prevalence; and iii. a proportion of tests being allocated to different sectors, with a national group meeting at least weekly to review allocations: to make this work on an ongoing basis, we will need each sector to nominate a lead representative and to share data on Covid-19 related absences.

Discussion

Background

1. The General Public Sector Ministerial Implementation Group has asked for an update on key worker prioritisation across all sectors on Monday. Subject to your agreement, the following advice will be submitted to the group.
2. Testing is a fundamental part of the UK's response to the coronavirus pandemic. There are two main types of test i) virus testing – to confirm whether someone has the virus (for the purposes of this paper, symptom testing), and ii) antibody testing – to confirm whether someone has had the virus and is now immune (for the purposes of this paper, immunity testing).