

Message

**From:** Michael Lockhart [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A31586FD829B45AA8BE2249C4BE9DE5D-MICHAEL LOC]  
**Sent:** 07/11/2023 14:09:54  
**To:** [REDACTED] NR [REDACTED] NR @phs.scot]; [REDACTED] NR [REDACTED] NR 2@phs.scot]  
**CC:** [REDACTED] NR [REDACTED] NR @phs.scot]; [REDACTED] NR [REDACTED] NR @phs.scot]  
**Subject:** FW: Coronavirus - increasing laboratory test costs  
**Attachments:** Re\_Extra information for Lab meeting re COVID19 enhanced surveillance.msg

**Importance:** High

**From:** HARLEY, Kate (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND) <kateharley@nhs.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 29, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] NR (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND) [REDACTED] NR @nhs.net>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] NR (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND) [REDACTED] NR @nhs.net>; LOCKHART, Michael (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND) <michael.lockhart@nhs.net>  
**Subject:** Coronavirus - increasing laboratory test costs  
**Importance:** High

Dear Peter

As you will be aware HPS is leading the national response to Coronavirus. The situation is requiring a lot of additional resource and one of the big demands is for increased laboratory testing by the Glasgow and Edinburgh virus laboratories. Our microbiology cell, led by Michael Lockhart, has worked with the labs and others to define the likely requirements and estimate costs. The initial estimates are contained in the table and email text below. All this is developing rapidly and I agreed with [REDACTED] NR and [REDACTED] NR that I would share these with you as obviously we need NSD to work with us and the labs to firm this up and agree actual costs.

HPS has also had approval from SGHSC to proceed with enhanced surveillance via the sentinel swabbing arrangements we have with some GPs. This cost for this is not fully worked up yet but the attached email sets out at least some of the requirements.

Apologies for dropping this into your mail box for a Monday morning. Can you let me know how we can best take it forward. Michael is the lead for HPS so I have copied him. Also, this is a ever changing situation and the requirements for testing are therefore likely to increase over time.

Swabs	60K swabs for 6 months		Irrelevant & Sensitive			Estimate is for 6 month supply
Testing	Commercial kit testing Av <input type="text"/> /test.					Estimate is for 6 month supply
Testing	Tests for NHS Tayside - cost of reagents					Estimate is for 6 month supply based on advise it would cost <input type="text"/> I&S for 4 months.

- 1) Swabs- we are guesstimating 60k swabs required for 6 months, based on seasonal flu activity rates – cost approx. [I&S] I would suggest for the first 6 months these should be centrally funded.
- 2) Testing –GGC/NHSL (and Poss NHST) -I will go with an average cost of [I&S] per test based on inhouse methodology (purely based on Kates figures) – we have capacity for 350 tests per day currently, the first month has been ramping up and may reach approx. 1000 tests, but for next 5 months taking into account a move towards diagnostic lab commercial kit testing, say an average of 150 tests per day for 5 months (realising in the next month it will be way more than 150 tests per day but should then lessen)= [I&S] for five months plus [I&S] for first month –equivalent to approx. [I&S] for 6 months testing via inhouse methodology.
- 3) Testing in diagnostic labs – I would like to argue during the first 6 months of the incident that lab testing is not just a diagnostic service but will also impact on PH management and therefore should be centrally funded –based on previous experience with seasonal flu in NHS Tayside and using midpoint of estimated commercial test cost, we would estimate additional costs of 1000 tests x [I&S] = [I&S] per month during the winter flu season. As Tayside represents approx 10% Scotland, overall national costs could be in the region of [I&S] /month for consumables alone for diagnostic laboratories using commercial kits. I think it unlikely that diagnostic lab testing will go live until beginning of April, earliest, and so that would leave 4 months of the initial 6 month period – so [I&S] x4= [I&S] and then I would suggest that at the end of that period the cost of testing should be adopted as part of routine diagnostic lab service delivery.
- 4) Consumables and packaging –I would suggest that these are covered by local labs as per current arrangements, and will encourage the rapid adoption of local diagnostic lab testing –ie this should not be centrally funded.

Total for 6 months service delivery= [Irrelevant & Sensitive] =£1.6m

Best wishes

*Kate*

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(Public Health and Intelligence is a strategic business unit of National Services Scotland; it subsumes the former divisions of Information Services Division and Health Protection Scotland).