

Dear Colleague

I am writing to advise you of the new process which has been established for the testing of suspected Covid-19 cases in the care home setting from Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. This is set out in the attached Flow Diagrams.

If you have a resident who is symptomatic, the care home should contact the GP practice with whom the resident is registered.

Following a short telephone clinical assessment, the GP will make a referral to initiate the test. The referral will be sent to the local Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCP) base from which they will provide support for tests to take place.

The Home should contact the GP practice at the earliest point when a resident becomes symptomatic. A test should only be carried out on days 2-5 from the onset of symptoms.

Nursing Homes are being asked to undertake the test using their own staff. The HSCP will arrange for the labelled test to be delivered to the Nursing Home. Once the test has been completed, it will be collected and transported to the laboratory. The HSCP will ensure contact with the Nursing Home so that drop off/collection arrangements are clear in each case. Advice is available for the staff in the nursing home on how to complete the test. Please see the link to training materials at the bottom of this letter.

For residential care homes, the HSCP will have a small team of staff who will visit and undertake the test and will arrange for onward transport to the laboratory. Again the HSCP will ensure contact with the home so that arrangements are clear in each case.

In all cases the test result will be forwarded to the resident's GP practice and notified to the relevant home.

There will be no testing scheduled at weekends. Care homes will be asked to contact the resident's GP on Monday morning to discuss the symptoms and for testing to be arranged if appropriate for residents who have developed symptoms over the weekend.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda De Caestecker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

**Linda De Caestecker**  
**Director of Public Health**  
**NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde**

- <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-obtaining-an-upper-respiratory-tract-diagnostic-sample/>
- <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-packaging-of-diagnostic-samples-for-onward-transportation/>

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- Covid-19 Care Home Test Process