

Key Workers Community Swabbing Process Covid-19

In order to facilitate the efficient and effective swabbing of key workers within their own homes, the following process has been agreed.

Background

There are a significant number of key workers who are unable to work because of the requirement for 7 or 14-day self-isolation. These are staff who are symptomatic or are living in a household where another individual may have COVID-19 or are symptomatic of Covid-19.

Whilst this is the right action for staff members to have taken; it is this group that is causing the greatest degree of absenteeism, potentially for no underlying clinical reason. Employing organisations will use these tests to allow key staff to return to work if they have tested as negative or the index case in their home is COVID-19 free.

Scope

This process is only applicable for individual key workers and their family members who are unable to access swabbing via any other established process/facility (i.e. via their employers swabbing service or via attendance at a mass 'pod' or 'drive through' swabbing facilities). This service will undertake swabbing of individuals and their family members in their own home.

Symptomatic staff will only be tested if their symptoms are three or fewer days old. This is because the test results can take up to 72hrs to become known, and staff who have a later test may have the potential to be out of isolation before the result is known.

Operational Activity

- Mersey Care (MCT) will be delivering this service on behalf of the Liverpool and South Sefton & Southport & Formby CCG
- Liverpool CCG will coordinate the collation of swabbing requests on behalf of the Local Resilience Forum footprint using a pre-determined MCFT eligibility criteria (Appendix A)
- MCT will access a supply of swabs via the Hunter Street testing site, this will initially be limited to 20 percent of swab capacity (10 swabs per day) until demand for this service is established, with a review date of 2 weeks post implementation date agreed.
- Completed swabs for testing will be delivered daily by MCT staff to the Hunter Street site before 4pm for transportation to the Randox testing facility.
- Results of tests undertaken will be communicated to key workers via the pre-established protocol for the Hunter Street site.

Process

1. Liverpool CCG will coordinate the requests for swabs and register the key worker using pre-established protocol for Hunter Street satellite testing centre.
2. Liverpool CCG will initially establish if key workers are able to access a satellite site for testing (see Appendix A), if the key worker is unable to access due to illness or transport limitations, they key worker will be referred by Liverpool CCG to the home swabbing team within MCT via the single point of contact email address – homeswabbingteam@merseycare.nhs.uk
3. MCT home swabbing team will contact the key worker and arrange for the home testing to be undertaken.
4. MCT will confirm with the LCCG via a data return to lccg.swabcoordinator@nhs.net indicating that the swab has been completed and the spreadsheet will be updated.

Result Reporting

The results of key worker tests will be communicated via text or email messaging service using pre-established protocol for Hunter St site.

Appendix A: Eligibility Criteria for Home Testing:

- Key Worker too unwell to travel for testing at a centre
- Key worker has no access to transport in their household