

# Whole Home Testing



## Whole home testing rolled out to all care homes in England

Every care home in England will now be offered a coronavirus test for all residents and staff, even if they have no symptoms. Initially this will be to care homes caring for those “over the age of 65”, however, there are local authorities that are rolling this out earlier.

- Care home staff to be given coronavirus tests every week and residents monthly to identify anyone with the virus and reduce transmission
- Repeat testing will be initially prioritised for care homes primarily looking after over 65s or those with dementia before being rolled out to all adult care homes
- Repeat testing will be extended to include all care homes for working age adults in August.

Staff will be tested for coronavirus weekly, while residents will receive a test every 28 days to prevent the spread of coronavirus in social care. This is in addition to intensive testing in any care home facing an outbreak, or at increased risk of an outbreak.

A study, which surveyed almost 9,000 care home managers and analysed data from whole care home testing, identified the higher levels of the virus among care staff, particularly among temporary staff who work in multiple care settings. The study suggests that care home staff may be at increased risk of contracting the virus, which they may then pass on to others if they have no symptoms.

Some of our service users will have learning disabilities or other mental health concerns that may affect their capacity to make a decision about being tested. **On these occasions, managers must follow MCA/Best interests process where individuals do not have capacity.**

Additionally, some service users have sensory issues and /or health or behavioural issues that would reduce their tolerance of the swabbing process.

People have the right to refuse to be tested, and where there is a risk to themselves or others, we will follow guidance to protect them and others within a home.

These measures include wearing the correct PPE, Shielding those previously identified as vulnerable individuals, limiting visitors and possible cohorting or isolation measures.

There is a risk assessment available for staff who refuse testing.

Please use the following link to book care home tests:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-care-home>