



Whole Home Testing – position statement (Children's services)

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.

Whilst CareTech/Cambian welcomes the availability of whole home testing as part of the Government's wider implementation of test and trace, there are some questions at this early stage of roll out and we wish to provide clarity to managers on our position.

Some of our Young people will have learning disabilities or mental health conditions that may affect their capacity to make a decision about being tested.

Additionally, some Young people have sensory issues and /or health or behavioural issues that would reduce their tolerance of the swabbing process. A young person who does not have symptoms should give consent before being tested or a best interest's assessment should be undertaken if they lack capacity to consent. Where appropriate, young people's parents and those with parental responsibilities should be involved in the decision making process and where required – young person's social worker consulted.

There are a number of scenarios in which whole home testing may be necessary. On these occasions, managers must follow MCA/Best interest process where individuals do not have capacity and involve people identified in previous section.

Young 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 vulnerable individuals, limiting visitors and possible cohorting or isolation measures.

Valid reasons for Whole home testing may be as follows:

- Specific Advice from PHE/ Health Protection teams
- Symptomatic young person or staff
- Confirmed COVID young person or staff
- Contact from Track and Trace (following risk assessment by management)

Any manager who wishes to or is instructed to undertake whole home testing must inform their Regional Manager/Responsible Individual and MD.