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## **NOTE FOR ALL CHILDMINDING SERVICES**

To all registered childminding services,

On the 2 February, the First Minister confirmed that the Scottish Government will introduce a routine testing programme for schools and childcare staff.

The safety of children and childcare staff remains our priority and, although the evidence continues to show that childcare settings are low risk environments, we understand the importance of offering childcare workers and families as much reassurance as possible.

The first phase of the programme will apply to those early learning and childcare (ELC) and school-aged childcare (SAC) settings which are attached to schools, and will begin from 22 February. Those settings within the scope of the first phase will have received communications through their school or local authority.

### **This note is for childminding settings only.**

All standalone day care of children settings registered with the Care Inspectorate which are not attached to schools will have received a separate communication. This is because a different offer has been developed for childminders which is more tailored to the nature of the childminding setting.

The routine at home testing which is being offered to day care of children settings reflects the fact that the key risk is from adult:adult transmission. As most childminders are sole workers, there is not the same rationale for a regular programme of twice weekly testing to help stop chains of transmission in the same way.

We recognise that childminders may be concerned at times that they could have been exposed to the virus. Therefore we are making available a route to enable childminders to access an on demand asymptomatic PCR test in such circumstances. Instructions for how to access this are overleaf.

Alongside the safety measures and mitigations you are putting in place within your settings, this asymptomatic testing access can provide you with reassurance when you need it.

It is important to remember that the asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the safety measures and mitigations that you have put in place within your settings. We must all remain vigilant in continuing to follow all appropriate measures to ensure settings remain low risk environments.

You can find the [refreshed guidance document for childminding services](#) on the Scottish Government website.

## Accessing Asymptomatic PCR Testing

The Essential Worker Portal has been updated so that staff who work in Health or Social Care, Education, or in an Emergency or Prison service in Scotland can access a COVID test if they do not have symptoms. This includes childminders and their assistants.

A test can be booked by the individual via the Get a Fee NHS test to check if you have coronavirus: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

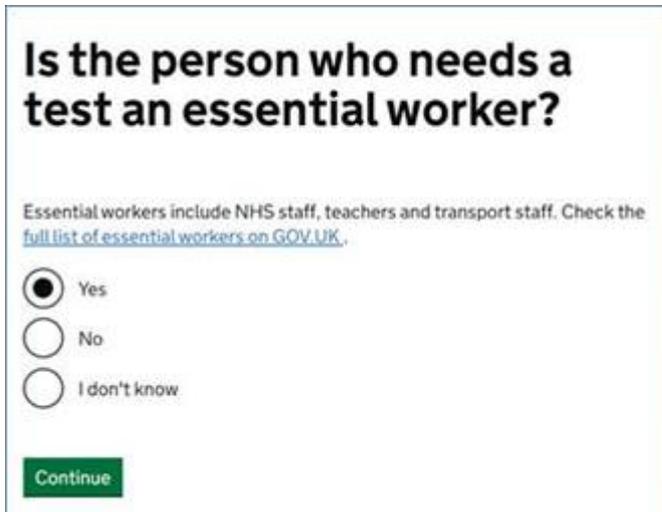
### Detailed instructions are below:

You should click on the Booking process link: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)



The next page you are presented with, asks if you are an essential worker.

Select Yes.

A screenshot of a web form with the question "Is the person who needs a test an essential worker?" in bold black font. Below the question is a line of text: "Essential workers include NHS staff, teachers and transport staff. Check the [full list of essential workers on GOV.UK](#)." There are three radio button options: "Yes" (selected), "No", and "I don't know". At the bottom of the form is a green "Continue" button.

You will then need to work through the questions asking about symptoms

- Select NO you do not have any symptoms.

After a couple of pages (say no at each), you will be presented with the screen below, which sets out the other reasons that you could be requesting a test:

## Why are you asking for a test?

- I've been told to get another coronavirus test
- I'm ordering for someone I live with who has coronavirus symptoms
- My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms
- I'm part of the National Tactical Response Group (NTRG), or someone I live with is
- I'm in Scotland or Wales and I work in health or social care, education or in an emergency or prison service
- I'm a personal assistant in England employed by an individual to provide home-based adult care and support
- None of the above

Continue

Click on the option: **I'm in Scotland or Wales and I work in health of social care, education, or in an emergency or prison service.**

This will then lead to the pages to input your personal data and contact data and bring up availability of appointments at nearby test sites.

### Things to consider before requesting a PCR test:

- Some individuals, out of concern for their own health or that of others, seek a test even when they have no symptoms. This may give a sense of assurance but can be misleading and cannot exclude the possibility that the virus is present, or that the person may go on to be infected or to develop the illness.
- The COVID-19 tests we use in Scotland work by detecting evidence of the virus in a person's nose and throat sample (which is collected using a nasopharyngeal swab to collect secretions from the back of the throat and then the back of the nose). These tests cannot tell us whether or not someone is incubating the disease, but only if evidence of the virus is present at the time when they are tested. This means that testing is a single point in time assessment of whether a person may be infectious but it cannot tell us whether a person is going to become ill in the future.
- Therefore a negative result cannot reliably be used to inform individual risk or as the basis for reducing mitigations to reduce the risk of transmission such as hygiene and distancing.
- Sometimes when the test is taken and returns a positive result, it needs to be repeated. Self-isolation must continue until the repeat result is available and further advice provided thereafter by your NHS team.
- If you have tested positive from a PCR test then you should not participate in another test for 90 days (if you have symptoms and they persist you should call NHS 24/111).

- If you have been a close contact of someone with coronavirus you will be asked to isolate for 10 days and take a PCR test.