



E: childcaretestingprogramme@gov.scot

11 May 2021

NOTE FOR ALL DAY CARE OF CHILDREN PROVIDERS

To all registered day care of children services,

This note is for all Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and School-aged Childcare (SAC) settings which are participating in the asymptomatic childcare testing programme, other than those participating through a school.

ROUTINE ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING FOR STAFF

This note requests your help in promoting the key elements of the programme and in identifying areas for improvements to the programme through surveys - one for settings and one for all staff, whether they are participating in the programme or not.

Evaluating the implementation of the programme and identifying areas for improvement

As part of our ongoing learning and delivery of the programme we are undertaking two surveys to hear how settings and staff have found the testing.

We'd like to ask all settings to complete the survey for childcare settings, one representative should do so per setting – ideally the person who has been responsible for administering the programme in the workplace.

The setting survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete, and will be available until the 20th May:

- <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/5PCWRT/>

We'd also be grateful if you could promote the separate survey for staff members, including those who may not be participating (who will be asked only a couple of questions). This survey should only take 10-15 minutes to complete and will be very helpful in continuing to improve the programme for participants. We'll also be promoting this survey directly to individuals registered with the SSSC. The survey will be available until 20th May.

- <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TWIYPG/>

The impact of the programme and key messages

You may wish to be aware that the national figures on uptake of LFD testing and positivity are published weekly (updated on a Friday) and can be found via the education surveillance dashboard [here](#). Public Health Scotland colleagues expect to be able to include local authority breakdowns in these figures shortly, which we hope will be helpful to you in building understanding of how the programme is operating in your area.

There are some key messages that we continue to be grateful for your support in communicating to staff as part of your normal communications activities:

1. Testing continues to play an important role, in and out of settings, in our fight against COVID-19. Staff should continue to test themselves and report results. Testing and self-isolating can help limit the likelihood of the virus getting into childcare settings, and help mitigate the impacts if/when it does.

2. Please ensure that all test results, whether positive, negative or void, are reported using the digital portal or telephone service (119). Reporting test results can be done from mobiles, online or by phone, and should be completed straightaway. Reporting not only supports contact tracing in the event of a positive case, but assists our collective understanding of rates of infection in communities and schools, childcare and other settings across the country. If we only record positive results, the level of COVID-19 cases may look worse than they really are. Collectively, health professionals can use the information to spot patterns and outbreaks more quickly and accurately, and ensure better targeting of responsive and preventative action; helping reduce the risk of future lockdowns.

3. Please ensure that, if you have a positive LFD result, you self-isolate immediately, report it and book a confirmatory PCR test. Self-isolation is vital to help limit the potential spread of the virus in your setting and wider community. Taking a PCR test is really important - PCR tests are more accurate than LFD tests, and can help identify whether your positive result is incorrect (a false positive). If the PCR test is negative, in most cases you and your contacts will be able to end self-isolation subject to further advice from Test and Protect.

There is support available to households who have to self-isolate and who need help. This includes: the [Self-Isolation Support Grant](#) to provide £500 to people self-isolating who earn less than the real living wage, as well as people who are in receipt of or would be eligible for Universal Credit, and parents of self-isolating children who need to provide childcare and meet one of the other criteria; practical support such as food or essential medicine deliveries through the local self-isolation assistance service; and the national Coronavirus helpline – available at 0800 111 4000, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm – to ensure people who isolate have the support they need.

4. Please report any faulty test kits, to help us ensure the testing programme remains safe and effective. Individual users can do so by calling 119 or by using the [MHRA Yellow Card reporting system](#) if there have been adverse incidents as a result of problems with test kits. Settings can do so by calling the **NSS Helpline** on **0800 028 2816** or emailing nss.Covid19TestingSupport@nhs.scot.

5. There is now guidance available in a range of different formats. These include: (i) a [How To Test video with BSL and subtitles](#); and (ii) [Instructions for Use in languages other than English](#).

Reminder of the NHS Scotland Helpline

This is now the main port of call for delivery issues, as well as **all** other matters arising for settings. Please use this phone number or e-mail address to log any issues relating to the programme from this point forward.

The helpline number is: **0800 008 6587**. (Note that you should select the option for 'schools' this is being changed to refer also to childcare and colleges shortly)

The e-mail address is: nss.Covid19TestingSupport@nhs.scot

Second deliveries and plans for self-reordering of test kits

There will be deliveries to settings which we consider are close to running low on kits for staff in each week of this month. Detailed lists of which settings will be receiving kits will be available in Objective Connect on Fridays for the following week.

If you are concerned that your staff are close to running out of kits and you haven't heard about a delivery to your setting please contact the NHS Scotland Helpline as above.

We hope to be able to share with you the arrangements and guidance for reordering test kits in the week of the 24th May. This will allow settings to reorder their own kits when needed with the intention of approximately a one week delivery timeframe if orders are placed before Wednesday. More detailed information and instructions will be available in the coming weeks.