



E: childcaretestingprogramme@gov.scot

6 April 2021

NOTE FOR ALL DAY CARE OF CHILDREN PROVIDERS

To all registered day care of children services,

This note, which follows the notices sent on 19 February and 9 March, is primarily for all settings in phase two of the asymptomatic testing programme. Phase two covers all standalone Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and School-aged Childcare (SAC) settings registered with the Care Inspectorate which are not attached to schools.

ROUTINE ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING FOR STAFF

Thank you to all for your continued cooperation. We're pleased to say that the first deliveries to stand alone settings over the two week period 22 March – 1 April were largely successful and I hope you've now been able to start issuing test kits to staff.

We are very grateful to all of you for making arrangements to take delivery of kits, especially where the delivery window exceeded your usual hours.

We know that a few settings are still awaiting a redelivery attempt following a failure last week, and our suppliers have assured us that redelivery should be attempted this week.

For settings which requested a delay to delivery due to their Easter Break, we will obtain schedules for future deliveries towards the end of the preceding week. As soon as these are available we will upload them to Objective Connect and inform you that they're there.

Round Two of Deliveries – Closed or Uncontactable Settings

In the data collection exercise in February there were around 300 settings for whom we either did not receive headcount data or who were at the time marked as closed.

We want to obtain the relevant data for such settings as soon as possible to organise a further large scale order of kits. An exercise to do this will begin this week. Settings in this position on our database will be contacted directly to obtain the necessary information.

If this affects your setting, please keep an eye out for that data gathering email and respond as soon as you can.

Reordering Kits

The majority of settings will have received enough kits to last at least two months, and many will have enough for more than this.

A direct reordering route is being developed by our partners for use UK wide, and this will enable settings to directly reorder a further supply of kits when they start to run low. More information on this will be made available as soon as possible.

We do have a record of where settings may have only 2 or just over 2 months' of supply, and if for any reason the reordering portal development is delayed we will undertake a further delivery round to ensure that such settings do not run out of kits.

Objective Connect

Please remember to check back regularly in Objective Connect for any updates to key documents. A version control document will make clear those which have been changed.

If you are having problems with Objective Connect please contact us at childcaretestingprogramme@gov.scot

NHS Scotland Helpline

From Monday 29 March, a new Scottish telephone helpline service for the testing programme has been in operation, managed by NHS National Services Scotland, for any issues related to Scottish schools, ELC and SAC settings. This is now the main port of call for delivery issues, as well as other matters arising for settings.

This number is: **0800 008 6587**.

In addition to the telephone helpline, a new NSS contact form service is being developed, which we will provide more details on in the near future.

Guidance documents in Objective Connect have been updated to reflect this.

Reporting Test Results and Confirmatory PCR Tests

Finally, we wanted to underline the requirement that those members of staff who are participating in the testing programme report their test results through the NHS portal: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

From 31 March, the testing portal now has broader categories to encompass all childcare settings which should make it easier for staff members to report.

Please also emphasise to your staff the importance of taking a confirmatory PCR test in the event of a positive LFD result. This will help avoid any unnecessary self-isolation.

If members of staff are having difficulty reporting their results or any other issues with the home test kits they should contact: **0300 303 2713**