



E: childcaretestingprogramme@gov.scot

27 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, 9 March and 6 April, is for all Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and School-aged Childcare (SAC) settings registered with the Care Inspectorate which are participating in the asymptomatic childcare testing programme, not through a school.

This note provides an update on reporting any issues with testing including deliveries, and reiterates important key points about the asymptomatic testing programme.

ROUTINE ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING FOR STAFF

Thank you to all for your continued cooperation with the testing programme. All registered Day Care of Children settings which have chosen to participate in the programme should now be in receipt of kits, or will be receiving kits next week.

Those settings which have recently provided data should expect testing kits to be delivered in the first week of May (avoiding the public holiday of Monday 3 May). We will upload delivery schedules on Objective Connect the week before deliveries are made and you'll receive an alert from Objective Connect when that happens.

Settings we expect to run low of kits during May will also receive a second delivery during the first week of May.

NHS Scotland Helpline

We reported in a previous provider notice that as of Monday 29 March, a new Scottish telephone helpline service for the testing programme is now 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 **all** other matters arising for settings.

The helpline number is: **0800 008 6587**.

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

Please use this phone number or e-mail address to log any issues relating to the programme from this point forward. Guidance documents in Objective Connect have been updated to reflect this.

Key points to reiterate about the testing programme

We wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate a few key points about the testing programme:

- The testing programme is voluntary but we continue to encourage all staff to take up the offer of at home testing for the wellbeing and reassurance of their setting community.
- Reporting of test results via the NHS portal is vitally important for the success of the programme. Please encourage staff to fill in the setting name and the occupation group when recording results, as this helps us understand the risks in settings. The portal for recording results can be found here: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result
- 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**
- Staff should continue to test regularly - twice a week, even after receiving their vaccination. We recommend staff continue to test when on holiday, but that is a choice for individuals. If staff do pause their testing while on leave, they should test before returning and on the morning of their return to work.
- It is important that staff book a confirmatory PCR test when receiving a positive LFD test. After a positive PCR test result, the staff member should not use LFD tests for 90 days from receipt of the PCR test. However, if they experience symptoms again they should seek another PCR test.
- The announcement of [universal access to LFD testing](#) for all who wish it will not affect the ongoing workplace based targeted testing programmes. Staff should continue to participate in LFD testing via their setting and log their results as outlined in the guidance.
- Undertaking regular testing is an additional reassurance to all other mitigations and safety measures you will have in place for your setting. Please continue to remain vigilant and follow the relevant sector guidance.
- A new NHS Scotland video on how to use LFD test kits can be accessed online : [How to do a rapid lateral flow device \(LFD\) test at home](#)

Reordering Test Kits

In mid-May we plan to be able to share with you the arrangements for reordering test kits. This will rely on having accurate data, especially email addresses and headcount. If you are concerned that we may not have the correct data please contact the NHS Scotland Helpline.

Objective Connect

Finally, 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.