**To all Surrey NHS and social care staff – a new process for Covid-19 staff testing**

As we increase our testing capacity, we are able to expand the testing offer to a wider group of staff and household members including individuals working in the NHS outside acute care, for example, mental health, primary care, community services, and social care services.

As part of our response to COVID-19, we have set up a team to coordinate a systematic approach to staff testing across Surrey.

Last Friday, (10th April) we launched a new process to enhance Covid-19 staff testing across our system, to ask all NHS and social care colleagues who are self-isolating, either because they are symptomatic or because a member in their household is symptomatic, to inform the Surrey Heartlands COVID-19 testing hub team within **24 hours** of beginning self-isolation.

It is important to undertake the test as soon as possible following the onset of symptoms, to maximise the accuracy of the test.

To register, you simply need to click on [www.surrey.trustwide.co.uk](http://www.surrey.trustwide.co.uk) and a member of our central team will contact you usually within 24hrs.

If you are working for one of our acute trusts, please make sure that you contact your own trust in the first instance as they might be able to refer you to the testing facilities they have on-site. If your trust can’t offer you a slot quickly, then please register with the Surrey Heartlands testing team as indicated above.

If a member of staff tests negative:

* They can return to work if they are well enough to do so
* If an individual living in the same household as a member of the NHS/social care family tests negative, then the keyworker can return to work without themselves being tested.

If a member of staff tests positive:

* They will need to self-isolate for 7 days
* After 7 day, they can return to work if they don’t have a high temperature. However, if they still have a high temperature, they will need to keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal and they are well enough to return to work
* Staff do not need to self-isolate if they just have a cough after 7 days. A cough can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

Please make sure you contact your line manager or HR team as soon as you obtain your results in order to discuss next steps with your employing organisation.

Since we went live with this new process last Friday (10th April) we were able to book more than 100 symptomatic staff and symptomatic household members of staff for swab tests in national drive-through test centres. This process has been widely recognised and commended across the system.

We need to move at pace and are constantly having to adapt and change and will keep communicating with you as our process develops

Please direct any queries by emailing the central team at: [syheartlandsccg.stafftesting@nhs.net](mailto:syheartlandsccg.stafftesting@nhs.net)

**Sent on behalf of Clare Stone**

**Surrey Heartlands ICS Director of Quality**

14th April 2020