

Prioritisation Protocol for staff antigen testing for COVID-19

Reagent used in testing to confirm the presence of COVID-19 is available in limited supply and staff testing is therefore prioritised to ensure the most appropriate use of this resource.

The intended benefit to services through use of this protocol is to enable self-isolating members of staff to return to work by obtaining a negative antigen test or a negative antigen test on a family member or cohabitee where they consent and where their symptoms have led to the staff member's self-isolation.

Testing for people in base (Churchill hospital) and at home (when required) is provided by the Community Swabbing Team employed by Oxford Health.

These criteria will be applied to staff working in General Practice in Oxfordshire, Oxford Health, Oxfordshire County Council-funded domiciliary care services, Oxford University Hospitals and South Central Ambulance Service in Oxfordshire.

In line with national guidance, testing is not expected to take place before Day 3 of symptoms.

1. Organisational prioritisation

Staff roles will be prioritised for testing based on the following priorities:

- a) A role which is critical to be saving of life or limb, in any setting
- b) Triaging the potentially very unwell, where absence of a test result prevents this role being delivered (i.e. tests will not be prioritised for staff who can work equally as effectively whilst in isolation)
- c) Delivery of routine health and care services, taking into account staffing levels and risk to service delivery

2. Referral

Staff or line managers will refer themselves or staff members who met these criteria to their individual organisation's Occupational Health service. Where suitable arrangements exist within the organisation's Occupational health department to secure relevant swabs etc, arrangements will be made to undertake this. In the event that no such arrangements exist or the rarer occasions when the patient or cohabitee is unable to attend a base the individual/s will be referred to the Community Swabbing Team who will make necessary arrangements.

Practice Managers or GP Federations (in the case of primary care visiting services) will make this assessment and refer directly to the Community Swabbing Team.

In all case, a direct line phone contact should be provided for the referring manager.

3. Exceptions

Occupational Health Departments and the Community Swabbing Team reserve the right to consider individual cases outside these criteria where there is a compelling clinical or operational reason. These will, however, be exceptional circumstances and may involve approval from Infectious Disease teams and/or Microbiology.

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