
Outbreak Management Advisory Board

9th September 2020

Sharon Stoltz, Director of Public Health

Testing Policy

Summary

1. To support access to timely testing in relation to Covid-19 outbreak response, a testing policy has been developed. This is submitted to the OMAB for approval and is attached at Annex A to this report.

Background

2. A Covid-19 testing policy has been developed to ensure that provision of local swab kit testing resources can be allocated on a priority basis and are accessible as a City-wide resource where required.

Main/Key Issues to be considered

3. The availability of local swab test kits to support access to Pillar 2 testing options strengthens local prevention focussed actions to restrict spread of Covid-19.

This testing policy has been developed to provide a clear framework and governance process through which to request testing kits in a range of scenarios.

The inclusion of processes to support access to testing for high risk locations such as care homes and higher education institutions recognises that there may be a requirement to provide more options to those sites in order to support a prevention focussed response.

Consultation

4. The policy has been developed in conjunction with the Adult Social Care Commissioning Team and the Public Health Department with

input from the local care homes, CCG colleagues, FE and HE institutions. Access to testing kits has been trialled with care homes during the pandemic response which has informed the development of the written policy. The specific inclusion of a higher education process acknowledges the possible needs of the student community in order to extend this policy to a city-wide approach.

Risk Management

5. The policy will enable decisions on distribution of swab kits through this finite local resource to be determined on a prioritisation basis. The current demand for swab kits is not close to capacity, however, the inclusion of higher education institutions and the return of a significant number of students may increase demand.

Alternate options to further strengthen our local Pillar 2 testing capacity through the exploration of a possible walk-in testing facility are also being considered.

Recommendations

The OMAB is asked to provide comments on the content of the testing policy and to approve its use. Any further significant changes can be returned to the OMAB for review and approval

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