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6 April 2020

**To:** Worcestershire General Practitioners

**cc:** CCG COVID Incident Control Room

LMC TeamNet notification

To all Worcestershire General Practitioners,

**Re: COVID 19 swabbing in General Practice**

We are writing to update you with regards to the availability of COVID-19 swabbing for Primary Care Health Care Workers in Worcestershire.

The Herefordshire and Worcestershire STP has been allocated 39 swabs per day, as part of an initiative being run Boots, which will be delivered at Edgbaston Cricket Ground. This swabbing capacity for Worcestershire primary care will be for the following groups of staff:

• Symptomatic priority health care workers

• Self-isolating priority health care workers due to a symptomatic house-hold member

This new swabbing service is due to commence on **Wednesday 8th April 2020.**

Below sets out the requirements in order for each practice to access the slots available on a daily basis: 1. Completion of the attached swabbing collection form (**tab 1**: for symptomatic priority health

care workers, **tab 2:** for self-isolating priority health care workers) 2. Access criteria is as follows (and is also detailed on the swabbing collection form):

**Access criteria:**

• Symptomatic priority health care worker or self-isolating priority health care worker

• Work in a Worcestershire GP Practice

• Are within days 1 - 4 of commencement of symptoms

• The following forms of ID will also be required at swabbing: a) A form of NHS ID b) Last 3 digits of smart card or equivalent

• For self-isolating priority health care workers, the house-hold member is over the age of 24 months 3. E-mail the completed swabbing collection form to hw.primarycare@nhs.net by **10am** every

morning to enable the CCG to submit names to Boots by 12 midday 4. The nominated health care worker will be contacted by the Boots co-ordination centre and

given a timeslot to arrive at the site by. 5. In the event of an over-subscription of swabbing slots, the CCG will prioritise based on the current workforce position. Unsuccessful referrals will receive an e-mail from the CCG Primary Care Team and be reconsidered the following day, taking the access criteria into account.

Your first submission needs to be e-mailed to hw.primarycare@nhs.net **by 10am on Tuesday 7th April** to be considered for the Wednesday 8th April swabbing session (and every day thereafter).

Please note, this capacity may change in the future due to Mental Health provider and care home requirements.

Finally, there is the possibility of a swabbing drive-thru being established near Worcester within the next couple of weeks; when further details are made available from the Regional NHSEI team we will update you as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

**Lynda Dando** Director, Primary Care

**Enclosure 1:** Worcestershire Primary Care swabbing collection form