



**Herefordshire and
Worcestershire**
Clinical Commissioning Group

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Att: Worcestershire General Practitioners

cc. CCG COVID Incident Control Room
LMC
Added to TeamNet

To all Worcestershire General Practitioners,

Re: IMPORTANT COVID 19 swabbing in General Practice – update

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

As I am sure you are aware, access has been given to staff to directly book for a swab via the Government website (<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>), but we have received confirmation that priority will be given to STPs who are co-ordinating lists on behalf of health and care staff. Therefore, in order for the health and care staff to be given swabbing slot priority they need to continue to be referred through the existing route, using a simpler collection template (see attached).

The access criteria remains the same, detailed below for ease:

Access criteria

- Symptomatic priority health or care worker and/or symptomatic house-hold member (age 5 and over) of a self-isolating priority health or care worker
- Work in the Herefordshire or Worcestershire area
- Individuals are in the first three days of the onset of their COVID-19 symptoms at the time the swab is taken - although testing is considered effective up until day five. No testing will be undertaken after day five.

The new referral and booking process is detailed below:

1. Referral process – which can come to effect from tomorrow, Saturday 25th April (although the old referral form will continue to be accepted and processed)

- Return the attached excel sheet to hw.primarycare@nhs.net by **13.00** each day (7 days per week), fully completed, with all details for the **health care worker only** and then they will be able to add in the details of up to 3 symptomatic household members age 5 and over through the online booking process (outlined below).
- The CCG will submit the swabbing list on behalf of all organisations to the regional team by 14.00 each day.

2. Booking process - for symptomatic health care worker and/or symptomatic household member

- The individual being tested will receive a text message inviting them to book an appointment. The text message will contain a link to the appointment booking system and a unique 16 digit code.
- The individual will click on the text message link and be directed to the appointment booking system where they will be asked to enter their unique 16 digit code. They will then be able to book a specific appointment for a coronavirus test at a regional testing site.
- The individual will receive a confirmation of their appointment via text message and email. These will contain a QR code, which will need to be shown to security at the regional testing site.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact hw.primarycare@nhs.net.

Yours sincerely,



Lynda Dando
Director, Primary Care

Enclosure 1: H&W Swabbing Template – Primary care