

Via Email:
Birmingham & Solihull Care Homes

12th May 2020

Dear Colleagues

You will be aware that the CQC have today launched a digital portal which enables care homes that look after older people or people with dementia to apply online to order test kits so that you can carry out swabbing of residents within your care homes directly.

We thought this would be a good opportunity to remind you, that across Birmingham and Solihull we will continue supporting homes by providing an enhanced testing programme, with our local teams visiting your home to swab all of your residents.

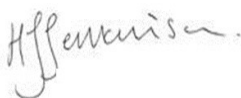
This testing programme helps to identify Covid infection as early as possible and provides you with ongoing localised support around infection control to reduce the impact on both residents and staff. Under our local programme, results will continue to be telephoned through to you and infection prevention advice and guidance around any other concerns you have, will also be provided at this time.

All staff within your home are also offered a test through the local programme with appointments given at the testing centre at Edgbaston. There is a home test option for non-drivers.

In the meantime, if you have concerns that any of your residents are symptomatic, please continue to inform the local Public Health England team via the online portal <https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n4KL97m2l#>.

This reporting will enable us to ensure that you, your residents and your staff can be supported appropriately.

Yours sincerely



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