

## **Comms from the CCGs in Mid and South Essex:**

Hi All,

Below is the comms we have received from the Mid and South Essex CCGs. This relates to the option for COVID swabbing in symptomatic practitioners working on the front line:

*We firstly would like to thank you for the incredible work you are doing in our response to Covid-19. We know that those of you working in front-line roles want to care for our patients and residents; and we know that many of you become frustrated when, if you or a member of your household develop symptoms of Covid-19, you are asked to stay off work, even if you feel well, because you have been unable to be tested for the illness.*

*We are pleased to announce that we will be offering an expanded testing/swabbing service for Covid-19. This will mean that if you have symptoms (and feel well) or have to isolate due to a household contact(s) with symptoms, and you are considered to be in an essential role, your line manager will be able to offer either you or your symptomatic household contact(s) the opportunity to be tested.*

*This will be invaluable in ensuring we have sufficient people to care for our patients and residents in the response to Covid-19.*

*Nationally, clinicians working in the following services have been prioritised for testing:*

- *Critical Care*
- *Emergency Departments*
- *Ambulance services*

*Locally, across Mid & South Essex, we are going further and have agreed that we will offer testing to other essential (clinical and non-clinical) staff involved in caring for our population, including those working in primary care, community and mental health services, hospices, local authorities, care homes, domiciliary care and volunteers.*

*For more information, contact your line manager or see our FAQs.*

### **Frequently Asked Questions – Staff**

#### ***What happens if I, or a member of my household, develops symptoms of Covid-19?***

*Contact your line manager to report your absence as usual. If you work in an essential role your line manager will be able to offer a Covid-19 test to you and any symptomatic household contact .*

#### ***How will I/my household contact(s) access the test?***

*Your line manager will direct you to download an App. This will allow you to register for yourself and/or your symptomatic household contacts for a testing slot at one of three centres in Mid & South Essex (see below). You/your household contact(s) will only be able to access a testing slot through the App. You will not be able to access the test centre without an appointment. The App will provide information on what to expect.*

#### ***What happens at the test centre?***

Once you have registered for an appointment, you will receive detailed advice on the time, place and process for the test. All tests will be “drive in” and you can stay in your car. Tests will involve a nasal and/or throat swab.

**What happens once the test has been completed?**

You will be contacted with the result within a maximum of 48 hours and offered appropriate clinical advice.

You can then speak with your line manager to discuss the result of your/your household member’s test.

It is, of course, our utmost concern to ensure your safety along with that of your family and the people you care for. The test result will enable you to discuss with your line manager a suitable date for returning to work, taking into account the environment in which you work.

**Must I/my household contact take a test?**

Neither you nor your household member(s) are compelled to take a test, and neither are you under any obligation to discuss the test results with your line manager. This service has been put in place to support those of you in front line roles who have been frustrated by having to stay off work without knowing whether you have Covid-19.

**Where will the test centres be located?**

There will be three drive-in swabbing centres across Mid & South Essex as follows:

Phoenix House, Christopher Martin Road, Basildon, SS14 3HG

Lighthouse Centre, Kingsdown School, Snakes Lane, Southend, SS2 6XT

Wren House, Hedgerows Business Park, Colchester Road, Chelmsford CM2 5PF

The hours of operation for each site will vary (the App will direct users to an appropriate time slot).

**Where can I get further information?**

If you have any queries please contact Sheila Purser on [Chairman@Essex-LOC.org](mailto:Chairman@Essex-LOC.org) or Emma Spofforth on [Secretary@Essex-LOC.org](mailto:Secretary@Essex-LOC.org) in the first instance.