

Care Home Testing Pathway for Outbreaks of Respiratory Illness

Health Protection Team



This pathway will cover requests within working hours: Monday to Friday 09:00 to 16:30

TESTING SHOULD BE DONE IN A SUSPECTED OUTBREAK SITUATION.

Care Home notifies HPT of suspected outbreak (2 or more residents with respiratory symptoms such as flu like illness or chest infection).

HPT suspect home has an outbreak and advise testing for respiratory pathogens to determine cause of outbreak.

HPT recommends to home that they test up to 5 residents who are symptomatic with a viral throat swab.

Care home staff should carry out PCR test with swabs provided. This should be clearly labelled and placed in sample bag. PCR order form must also be completed and included in separate section of the sample bag with PCR swab (note poster from HPT)

Care home takes swabs to GP to send via lab route as per usual process of getting samples sent

Care home informs HPT of the details of residents tested by emailing outbreak form.

Care Home contacts HPT for results, not GP.

Once the pathogen that caused the outbreak is identified, testing can cease.