

Date Winter 2026
Our Ref ERHPS/CH

Enquiries to East Region Health Protection
Direct Line 0300 790 6264
Email eos.eastregionhpt@nhs.scot

Dear Care Home Manager,

Please find enclosed a pack of 10 PCR test kits to be used for the purpose of **outbreak testing**. Residents should only be tested using these kits if there is a suspected outbreak; **this is if two or more linked residents have respiratory symptoms**.

You must also contact the Health Protection Service on EOS.eastregionHPT@nhs.scot or 0300 790 626 if you suspect an outbreak.

As per national guidance, only a maximum of 5 residents should be PCR tested in a respiratory outbreak situation, so this pack should cover at least 2 outbreaks in the home and see you through the winter months.

After winter the Care Home Support Teams will carry a small supply of PCR test kits in packs of 5 tests which can be requested to top up supplies when the original packs have been used. You can contact your local Care Home Support Team directly to request any top-up kits.

Please let your Care Home Support Team know if any of your test kits arrive damaged and need replaced.

Swabs should be stored in a cool, dark, easily accessible storage space alongside outbreak boxes, and all staff should be made aware of where they are kept and the process for use.

You may wish to contact your GP practice in advance to obtain some patient demographic labels to use on the forms and vials. These should not be ICE labels, but should have the resident's name, date of birth and CHI on them.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley Dunlop

Health Protection Nurse Specialist

