**COVID-19 Testing for Staff**

Staff testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) was started on Tuesday 24 March. This is solely to support an earlier return to work if coronavirus (COVID-19) infection can be ruled out.

For testing to be of use, it must take place between 24 and 72 hours of symptoms starting. This testing is for all NHS and Social Care staff who are self-isolating because of their own symptoms OR for staff who are isolating because a member of their household has symptoms. In these cases it will be the household member who is tested. If they are negative, the staff member is safe to return to work without having to self-isolate for 14 days

Ideally, we would like referrals on day 1 of symptoms developing. This needs to be organised by managers. Staff or their household contacts who are out with the time limits will not be offered testing.

The manager will need to send the information below in respect of the staff member – not the household contact, to OHenquiries@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk. The subject line must be Covid-19 staff testing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Name |  |
| DOB |  |
| Postcode |  |
| House Number/Name |  |
| Mobile Tel No |  |
| Date of onset of Symptoms |  |
| Post Title |  |
| Site |  |

The Occupational Health Service is currently operating 08.00-20.00 seven days per week to support the testing process. A member of the team will contact the health care worker as soon as possible following the referral to gather the necessary information and organise an appointment for a test, if appropriate. Drive through testing sites are available at Chalmers Hospital or West Lothian College and operate seven days per week. If transport is not available please see the associated guidance regards the use of a taxi.

All results will be sent by text between 48 -72 hours after testing. Staff are asked to inform their manager of the result to allow a return to work to be considered.