

Communications 23rd April 2020

Communications for Care Homes

Arley Medical Services (AMS) have been commissioned to deliver care home testing across Coventry and Warwickshire. This service has been running for nearly 3 weeks. Initially care homes were asked to report cases to Public Health England (PHE) who then referred the care home for testing with our local provider.

At the end of last week the Government changed the testing guidance from testing the first 5 symptomatic residents to now testing all residents displaying symptoms of COVID 19. To support this process care homes with already confirmed positive residents, can now contact Arley directly to request further swabbing of symptomatic residents.

The enclosed SOP has been developed to provide guidance on how to refer into the care home testing service either via Public Health England (PHE) or via AMS.

Criteria for referral are a temperature of above 37.8 and/or a new continuous cough.

All swabs are being tested at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire and results are taking approximately 3 working days. Once Arley has received the result from Pathology, they will contact the care home with this. Pathology will also be sending out a daily report to GP surgeries of results of all patients who have been tested for COVID 19.

Arley are currently only providing testing of symptomatic residents.

Should Care Home staff require testing please note that they have been sent a link by the CQC in order to be able to access testing as a key worker. For any issues on Care Home Staff testing please contact lynnbassett@warwickshire.gov.uk for Warwickshire or Debbie.Dawson@coventry.gov.uk for Coventry.

If you have any questions about the service please contact Natasha Lloyd-Lucas, Commissioning Manager at natasha.lloydlucas@southwarwickshireccg.nhs.uk