

## COVID-19 Testing Update

**To:** All St John's Staff  
**From:** Clive Cook and Sarah Weekes  
**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### Message: MAKING IT EASIER TO GET TESTED FOR CORONAVIRUS

As you may have recently seen on the news, Coronavirus testing has recently changed to make it easier and quicker to get tested. The NHS has set up this testing system to make sure that every essential worker who needs a test can get one. This includes our staff at St John's Winchester.

This update now means that:

- social care staff at Moorside and the Almshouses who are **symptomatic** can be tested
- social care staff at Moorside who are **not displaying symptoms** can be tested
- other essential workers at the charity who are **symptomatic** can now be tested
- your household member(s) who are self-isolating and **symptomatic** can be tested

Testing is vital to help get people back to their important work as soon as it is safe to do so.

### Why should I get tested?

Testing is so important as it gives you the information you need – whether to continue your isolation, or if you don't have coronavirus, whether you can get back to work and back to your teams, as soon as possible. It also provides peace of mind for everyone.

### Testing Routes

There are **two** current testing routes:

- 1. Self-referral route:** you can book a test directly online at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- 2. Employer route:** St John's will be registered as an employer and can request a test on your behalf.

As there are two different routes currently, we **do not want people to delay** in getting tested. If you want to go ahead and book a test independently, then please do so and we encourage you to do this. However, if anyone does have any difficulties booking a self-referral test or wants guidance, we can support you via the employer route. Please let the Matron, Office Manager or Office know.

If you do have symptoms, the current advice from the government is to get tested and that testing is most effective within **3 days** of developing symptoms.

We will also need to keep an accurate record of those who have had a test so we can plan for any future testing that might be required. The charity is acting on this right away to ensure you are all supported. **As soon as you book and receive your test result,** please do inform us and let us know how you are. Your wellbeing and welfare is important to us and we are all here to support you.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.

Yours Sincerely

Clive Cook  
Chief Executive

## ANNEX: Testing Route Details

### 1. Employer referral:

- As your employer, we can refer you through a new online portal. This means that we can register and refer our staff team or members of your household who we know to be self-isolating.
- Once we have done this, you will then be invited for a test via text message, prompting you to book and attend an appointment at one of the drive-through testing sites across the country (the closest is in Portsmouth).
- Please do let us know what your result is. If you test negative and feel well enough to return to work, you may choose to do so knowing you are no more likely to spread the virus than anyone else.

### 2. Self-referral:

- Alternatively, you can now book a test directly online at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) for yourself (whether you are symptomatic or not), as well as members of your household if they are self-isolating with symptoms of coronavirus
- You will then be invited for a test via text message, prompting you to book and attend an appointment at one of the drive-through testing sites
- Results are sent out by text usually within 48 hours of your appointment.

The tests are optional, however as it is in the best interests for colleagues and the residents, we strongly encourage you to let us know if you do want a test and you would like us to book this for you.

There will also be an increasing number of alternative testing routes available. **Once we have further details about these additional routes, we will send another update.** Below is some information that we know so far:

- The delivery service for home testing kits is being expanded, and whilst there will initially be a limited quantity, we have been advised that access will ramp up quickly in the coming weeks.
- Once available, home test kits will be delivered by Amazon and sent directly to essential workers' home so they, or a symptomatic member of their household, can perform the test.
- The kit can then be collected by a Royal Mail courier, for onward transportation to the laboratory. This will ensure those not able to travel to a test centre can still take the test, find out their results and return to work.