



Effective COVID-19 care home staff PCR testing

As it's been five months since NHS Scotland introduced a new pathway for Covid-19 PCR testing for staff, we want to ensure that it remains as effective as possible. It is important therefore that you follow these best practice tips:

1. **Swabs** – all swabs must be removed from the test tube. Swabs can be discarded either into clinical waste, or placed in a double plastic bag, securely tied, retained for 72 hours and disposed of in general waste.
2. **Registration on Portal** – ensure all your staff test samples (bar code numbers) are correctly recorded against names on www.covidtestingportal.scot before sending to the lab. Please only use Google Chrome, Firefox or Microsoft Edge web browsers.

Please do not use nhsnsstest.service-now.com/covidtesting to register test samples. This was a test site and no longer in use.

3. **Unused/unopened PCR kits** – if you do not use all the PCR test kits provided to you on any given day, please keep them at your care home for future use. You may find them useful if you spoil a test or need kits urgently.

Please do not return them by courier to the lab. If you have surplus stocks of NHS Scotland issued testing kits, please contact the National Contact Centre – 0800 008 6587

4. **Contact Us** – Please call the National Contact Centre 0800 008 6587 if you have any queries about either PCR or lateral flow device testing; or use the support function in the portal which you'll find on the top bar of www.covidtestingportal.scot