OUR REF: PHE/HMPPS/NHS Joint Comms UPDATE Nov 21

03 December 2021

Sent via email

To: Prison Governors and Directors

NHS England and Improvement National Health & Justice Commissioning Team

NHS England and Improvement Health and Justice Regional commissioning Teams

Prison and Secure Establishment Healthcare Providers

PHE Health & Justice Regional Leads

Health Protection Team Leads/ Outbreak Control Team chairs

Dear Colleagues

**RE: Outbreak Mass Testing Operational Guidance refresh to support outbreak testing within prison and youth custody settings**

We write further to our correspondence dated 30th September 2021. The existing Outbreak Mass Testing-SPOC guide v0.3 is now being replaced with version 0.6 which is accompanies this letter and contains the supporting annexes. This refreshed guidance does not cover any new processes but instead is intended to provide a clear structure and support for commencing the process of outbreak testing in prisons and youth custody settings.

There are several decisions regarding outbreak mass testing that need to be made at pace at the onset/ identification of an outbreak. These include the type of testing that will be most suitable for the prison, the model to be deployed and whether the prison will require the support of a Prison Outbreak Testing Workforce (POTW).

To get prisons started in conversations with their Outbreak Control Team (OCT), the operational guidance includes some useful checklists which are designed to support Governors/Directors in their decision making when considering the most suitable outbreak management plan for their prison.

An Aide Memoire has also been provided which will support Governors/Directors in understanding the benefits and limitations to the available methods of delivering outbreak testing.

Where it becomes evident that additional measures, such as Outbreak Testing, may be required Governors/ Directors should task their SPOCs with refreshing themselves on this operational guidance in preparation. Checklists have also been made available to support SPOCs in these initial steps.

We encourage all prison Governors/Directors and SPOCs to seek support and guidance from the [HMPPS Testing Team](mailto:hmppstesting@justice.gov.uk) at the earliest opportunity and where required throughout the process.

We thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| **Ed Cornmell**  **Deputy Director**  **Prison Reform / Covid-19 Gold Command**  **Her Majesty’s Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS)** | **Kate Davies CBE**  **Director of Health & Justice, Armed Forces and Sexual Assault Services Commissioning, NHSE/I** | **Dr. Éamonn O’Moore**  **National Lead for Health Justice**  **Public Health England** |