**Gold Briefing- Daily testing in prisons update 17.02.2022**

The requirement for daily LFD testing remains an essential control in our continued measures to reduce transmission and contain and reduce our current prison outbreaks. It is recognised that mandatory daily testing presents a considerable but necessary operational burden. This update provides further guidance to prisons in delivery of testing.

During this period of daily testing, staff have a choice to either:

* test at home, using Self Collect, prior to attending work, or
* attend the prison to take a test prior to commencing work, where possible, or as early in the shift as possible

**LFD testing on site:**

The Self-Collect LFD Test kits allocated for daily testing can be used at the prison. This LFD testing on site should be completed at a testing area that has been risk assessed as suitable by the prison, in consultation with local Trade Union representatives, ensuring the principles of Infection Prevention Control measures are adhered to. Set up of testing stations should be risk assessed using the HMPPS H&S Risk Assessment and in reference to the relevant Covid Workplace Risk Assessments undertaken in those areas.

**The Self-Collect Testing locations on site**: Prisons can make use of existing Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) set ups to provide a suitable place for staff to undertake the self-collect kits provided for daily testing on site as the ATS already provide suitable hand hygiene, infection prevention and waste controls. However, Governors can use a more flexible approach and set up self-testing stations for self-collect testing on site where they don’t already have them in place- these should be risk assessed as appropriate in terms of waste disposal, hand hygiene, cleaning, accessibility and space and these should be located away from main areas of work. For self-collect testing, testing operatives are not required to process the tests, and the member of staff should take and process their own self collect test, however a process to support the registration of positive tests should be considered. Further detail on the required considerations can be found in the Workplace testing: standard operating procedure ([linked here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workplace-testing-terms-and-conditions/workplace-testing-standard-operating-procedure-for-england-northern-ireland-and-wales)). Prison Local Operating Procedures (LOPs) will be used to describe all the necessary safety considerations being used in the self-testing station (e.g. cleaning, signage, hygiene, waste and processes)

**Risk Assessed Alternative locations for Self-Testing Stations**: Governors may explore alternative supplementary locations to reduce the impact of a single testing station during the busy start times of staff. Subject to local risk assessment, testing stations may be set up in other areas for example: the gym, Chapel, visits hall, visits centre, wings, buildings, workshop areas.

**Home Testing:** The option to test at home using self-collect testing is available for all staff who wish to.

**Support:** We recognise that each prison may have their own unique challenges in implementing testing. The HMPPS Testing team are available to work through the challenges you are facing and can make suggestions for solutions that are in line with the current SOP. Governors should contact the HMPPS Testing Team without delay to talk through any concerns.

**Key Considerations:**

* Stakeholders such as Local Trade Union Representatives (or regional representatives where these are unavailable) must be engaged and consulted in the consideration of local options
* HMPPS Testing models are kept under frequent review and any changes will be communicated accordingly