**Gold Briefing – Updates to Outbreak Management and Mass Testing Guidance (04.02.22)**

**Purpose**

Further to the recent changes published regarding isolation timeframes, UKHSA and DHSC have agreed some changes to the guidance around the management of outbreaks and mass testing. The purpose of this briefing is to outline these changes and what they mean for prisons.

**Mass Testing and Outbreak Management**

UKHSA have on 2nd February advised Health Protection Teams of interim changes to guidance for prisons.  In due course these changes will be reflected in updated publicly published guidance once finalised but are agreed for immediate implementation.

UKHSA continue to strongly recommend whole prison testing in response to emergent outbreaks. The rapid deployment of whole prison testing using both LFD and PCR enables a clear understanding of the force of infection within the setting which enables greater confidence in targeting control measures and judging when outbreak control restrictions can be lifted.

The new outbreak testing regime for prisons (and other places of detention) is Day 0, Day 5-7 and Day 14 after the last known case.  If whole prison testing has been delivered as per this protocol and no new cases linked to the outbreak are detected on Day 14, the OCT can consider standing the outbreak down, the OCT can consider standing the outbreak down, providing there is confidence that transmission chains have been identified and controlled.

In parallel to this approach, the vaccination of staff and prisoners and routine staff asymptomatic testing should continue to be vigorously promoted.

The HMPPS mass testing guidance will be updated in due course to reflect this change and is accessible [here](https://pogp.hmppsintranet.org.uk/2020/04/28/staff-testing-in-england/).

Please direct any queries on testing to [HMPPSCOVID19RegimeRecoveryTesting@justice.gov.uk](mailto:HMPPSCOVID19RegimeRecoveryTesting@justice.gov.uk) and any general queries to [COVID19.RegimesOpsGuidance1@justice.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19.RegimesOpsGuidance1@justice.gov.uk)