**GOLD BRIEF – Mass Testing delivery: Contingency Planning 22.04.22**

The current Prison Outbreak Testing Workforce, also known as mass testing workforce, is no longer available to establishments to support mass testing as of 31 March 2022. However, as outbreaks are expected throughout 2022 and into 2023, prisons must now consider how local mass testing may be delivered locally if recommended by an OCT or IMT and a multi-agency response is unable to be provided. Without a plan in place, the capability to respond to outbreaks and conduct mass testing is at risk.

As a COVID-dedicated resource, the Health Resilience Lead (HRL) on site is well placed to make an effective local plan for, coordinate and, where appropriate, deliver mass testing in collaboration with their Governor and healthcare teams. It is imperative to work collaboratively with, and provide support in the form of resources and detailed time for the HRL, so that mass testing can be planned for and completed effectively in a timely manner with a minimal impact on regime delivery throughout the entire prison. Areas being tested will be impacted, HRLs should have oversight of tested areas and ensure that testing is organised efficiently to limit this impact. HRLs will additionally be responsible for data reporting and monitoring.

Should an establishment in a region present an exceptional need for mass testing that cannot be resourced locally, Governors or an appropriate representative should consider making a regional request via the PGD for additional support from other establishments within the region to temporarily assist with the delivery of mass testing. However, this should be considered as a last resort when all other options have been explored and consideration must be given to any outbreaks or positive cases at the establishment providing support. If this cannot be fulfilled, and if further escalation is needed this should be routed via the PGD to the Executive Director and where necessary nationally via ORSP. We are clear that Mass Testing will be proportionate to the risk and what can actually be delivered at the time.

Good practice and successful mass testing programmes should be championed, and queries raised as they are identified. HRLs are encouraged to use their own channels of communication such as their weekly bulletin and email chain to share good practice. Furthermore, the Testing Team are on hand at HMPPSCOVID19RegimeRecoveryTesting@justice.gov.uk, and will also be running telephone drop-in sessions for which invitations will be sent and all HRLs are welcome to attend. For any additional queries, HRLs will also be able to contact COVID19.Ops&Guidance1@justice.gov.uk

This requirement should be considered a temporary measure whilst HMPPS work with health partners to determine a longer-term solution to supporting Outbreak Control Team requests.

Please direct any queries to HMPPSCOVID19RegimeRecoveryTesting@justice.gov.uk, and COVID19.Ops&Guidance1@justice.gov.uk

**INFORMATION FOR HRLs- Mass Testing Contingency: Planning Delivery 22.04.22**

The current Prison Outbreak Testing Workforce, also known as mass testing workforce, is no longer available to establishments to support mass testing. However, as outbreaks are expected throughout 2022 and into 2023, prisons must now consider how mass testing may be delivered locally if recommended by an OCT or IMT. Without a plan in place, the capability to respond to outbreaks and conduct mass testing is at risk.

As a COVID-dedicated resource, the Health Resilience Lead (HRL) on site is well placed to make an effective local plan for, coordinate and, where appropriate, deliver mass testing in collaboration with your Governor and healthcare teams. A gold briefing has gone out to Governors today iterating the importance of working collaboratively with you and the healthcare team to effectively and quickly deliver mass testing with minimal impact on regime delivery.

Depending on the scale of mass testing recommended you may find the following options for delivery helpful:

* Separating your establishment into sections (wings), temporarily enforcing a patrol state in the area to be tested, and utilising dedicated wing staff to deliver testing. Enforcement of the patrol state should last no longer than three days to deliver testing, and must be proportionate to risk.
* Overseeing and where necessary supporting delivery of mass testing, with support from the healthcare team. This may be suitable for smaller units.
* A multi-disciplinary delivery approach with support from your healthcare team
* Requesting staff additional to the detail to assist testing in a timely manner
* Making use of COVID champions to lead on testing of specific areas
* Utilising staff on light duties and operational support grades to assist with collecting results, data reporting and monitoring
* Where safe and appropriate do so and with adequate training, utilise peer-on-peer testing

In addition to local testing delivery, should an establishment in a region present an exceptional need to mass testing, Governors or an appropriate representative can consider making a regional request for additional support from other establishments within the region to temporarily assist with the delivery of mass testing.

This should be considered as a last resort when all other options have been explored and consideration must be given to any outbreaks or positive cases at the establishment providing support.

As HRLs you are the most knowledgeable and qualified to complete this task. Please champion good practice and successful mass testing delivery using your existing channels of communication, such as your bulletin and email chain. Moreover, raise queries as you identify them. The testing team are on hand to support at HMPPSCOVID19RegimeRecoveryTesting@justice.gov.uk, and will also be running weekly telephone drop-in sessions which all HRLs are welcome to attend to share ideas and receive guidance. Dates of these and invitations will be shared.

As HRLs you have completed difficult tasks and responded at pace to challenging requirements. We / Gold command would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work, and diligence which has rightly been recognised as essential to outbreak management by our public health partners.  Please note also that this requirement should be considered a temporary measure whilst HMPPS work with health partners to determine a longer-term solution to supporting Outbreak Control Team requests.

For any additional queries, please contact COVID19.Ops&Guidance1@justice.gov.uk