**Notice to Prisoners**

As you will know, from Friday 1st April regular COVID testing of people in the wider community will come to an end and people will no longer be able to access testing kits for free. This is part of the Government’s plans to move forward from the pandemic and start to live with COVID.

As a result of this change, from 1st April your loved ones and significant others will no longer be required to take a COVID test before coming to see you for a visit, and neither will you. However, if there is an outbreak in this prison, or we receive advice from heath experts about a change in risk of infection we may have to bring testing before visits back again for a short time to protect you, staff and your visitors. If this does happen we will make sure you and your visitors are told as early as possible, and test kits will be offered at the prison.

As the number of COVID infections in the community are still quite high, we have to keep the other measures we have in place to keep everyone safe during visits such as social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing. With this in mind, we will be encouraging your visitors to still take a test before they come to the prison if they are able to, as this will help us to keep the risk down of further infections coming in, but it will be their choice if they wish to do that.

If any of your visitors take a test and it gives a positive result, we will not be able to let them come in for a visit. This is because we still need to protect your health, and that of everyone else living and working here.

We will also ask them not come to the prison if they have symptoms or have recently been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID.

If a visit does need to be cancelled for any of these reasons then we will make sure they know how to book a secure video call so that they have another way to see you until they can come and have a visit again. Any visits that can’t take place will be re-booked as soon as it is safe for them to come and visit again.

At the moment staff testing is staying the same, which means staff are being asked to keep taking regular lateral flow tests. I will let you know the longer-term plans for testing, and lifting the other restrictions in this prison as soon as I can.

Thank you for your continued patience and co-operation.