

Questions from Keeping up with COVID-19 Data on 21st December 2020

Questions	Answers
At one time, there were concerns that people were being sent to distant test sites. Can we assure local people that they will be sent to an in-borough site?	People will be offered a test site where there is availability. We have increased test site capacity in the borough, in coordination with the DHSC. However, there is no guarantee that someone will be offered one of the local test sites if all the slots have already been taken.
DO you have a system to get Key Workers within Place of Worship, Bubble, Etc who could be tested fast track	Essential workers as identified on the NHS Test and Trace COVID-19 booking site may be prioritised for a test slot at the NHS Test and Trace sites. We do not have a local additional system.
Balance supports people with Learning disabilities, our supported living service is non CQC. We would really like a weekly testing schedule for these staff also. We support 90 people in the community. Is this something that can happen?	The council is working to increase access to new testing for care staff with no symptoms (asymptomatic testing) who are not currently eligible for the existing national systems. The tests will be the new 'Lateral Flow' tests (LFTs). More details will be sent to providers shortly. Providers should also check if they are eligible for the national system. See the link here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947786/Care_Home_Testing_Guidance_England_v23-12_-_1.pdf
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Written communications are difficult as we are not used to messages changing so	The situation is changing quickly in

<p>quickly. for instance, something we were were asked to promote on Thursday - needed to be removed this morning. not sure what the solution is. but do you have any thoughts on this topic?</p>	<p>terms of case numbers and trends. Thus, national guidance changes frequently. We appreciate our partners being flexible in supporting us as messaging changes - and keep up to date with the changing messaging to help our residents access the latest guidance.</p>
<p>Thank you very much for the helpful voluntary sector briefing. We have been contacted by a number of carers, concerned about being able to provide care over the next few weeks, even when they are within the support bubble. Are you able to confirm this is acceptable, please? There are particular concerns when there will be a distance to travel. In some cases the need is caused by care workers being unwell or taking leave over Christmas.</p> <p>Can carers (unpaid family members) travel to provide care?</p>	<p>Section from the guidance relevant to your query website link below:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home</p> <p>Meeting others and care</p> <p>1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and will be spreading it without realising it.</p> <p>You can leave home to visit people in your <u>support bubble</u>, or to provide informal childcare for children aged 13 and under as part of a <u>childcare bubble</u>, to provide care for <u>vulnerable people</u>, to provide emergency assistance, attend a support group (of up to 15 people), or for respite care where that care is being provided to a vulnerable person or a person with a disability, or is a short break in respect of a looked after child.</p>