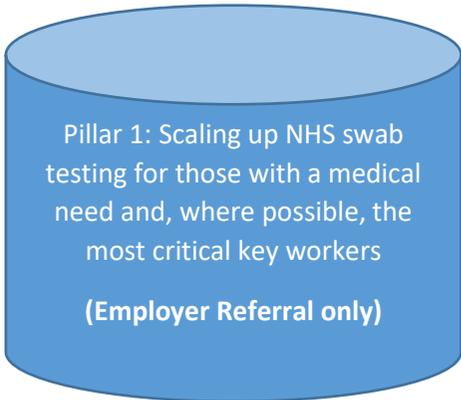


## **Covid-19 Testing in Northern Lincolnshire – Primary Care**

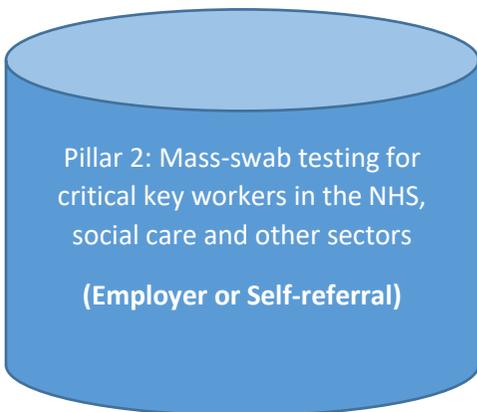
Version 1 NELCCG – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

The Government's plan for scaling up testing for Covid-19 is split into 5 pillars. Only pillars 1 and 2 are live at present. This document sets out how pillars 1 and 2 are accessed and utilised in Northern Lincolnshire



To keep patients safe and get critical health and social care staff back to work:

- This pillar will test local health and social care staff and some additional local key workers **with symptoms** (and/or any symptomatic family members living with them) ideally within first 3 days of developing symptoms, and not past day 5.
- Pillar 1 is accessed through the Northern Lincolnshire service run by NLaG and Care Plus Group.
- Staff will be given the option of attending a drive through site in Northern Lincolnshire (either Scunthorpe or Grimsby) for a test.
- Where staff members cannot drive, this needs to be highlighted on the referral form **or** those staff members could self refer into Pillar 2 for a home test kit.
- Results will be relayed to the person tested and their line manager to confirm whether the case is positive. Negative results (provided the staff member is well enough) will allow them to return to work in line with the employing organisation's occupational health processes.



To reach other critical workers and expand the amount of tests available in health and social care. This pillar will test the **following staff groups experiencing symptoms** (and/or any symptomatic family members living with them):

- All symptomatic essential workers ([full list here](#))
- Any symptomatic people over the age of 65.
- Anyone with symptoms who cannot work from home (e.g. construction workers, plumbers, delivery drivers)

They will also test:

- Any NHS workers or social care staff **regardless of whether they have symptoms.**

The Pillar 2 service was established by the Department of Health and Social Care. It can be accessed via employer referral **or** self referral using the online Government Portal (see page 2). Those accessing this service will be able to choose either:

- A test at a regional test centre, the closest being the Humber Bridge
- A home testing kit to be completed and returned by the staff member.
- A mobile testing unit if one is available in the referee's locality at the time of referral.

## How to refer

### **Pillar 1**

This service is the local service provided within Northern Lincolnshire, with drive through swabbing services located in Scunthorpe and Grimsby. This service only accepts referrals for people who are currently displaying symptoms, and are within the first five days of their symptoms.

Key workers who are self-isolating must be referred by their line manager - with the exception of clinicians in general practice, who can self-refer.

Referrals for staff swabbing within this service must all be made using the **referral form** and must all be forwarded to [nlccg.nlne1staffswabbing@nhs.net](mailto:nlccg.nlne1staffswabbing@nhs.net) The staff member will be contacted directly to arrange swabbing appointments. Where consent has been given (recorded on the referral form) result will be communicated to the line manager after the individual has been given their results.

Symptomatic Primary Care employees should use Pillar 1. In the event that Pillar 1 capacity is exhausted, you will be automatically referred through to Pillar 2 by the Care Plus Group Covid-19 Hub (CHUB).

You should self-refer into Pillar 2 if you:

- Are not symptomatic
- Would like a home testing kit

### **Pillar 2**

This is the national swabbing service and the nearest Regional Testing Centre is located near to the Humber Bridge in Hull (however if a Mobile Testing Unit is in your area the time of your referral, this should also show as an option for location).

#### Care Plus Group CHUB referrals on behalf of Primary Care

While the local service capacity will continue to see all keyworkers whilst it has available capacity, there might come a time where the local service is not able to provide swabbing for all keyworkers. As per the above, if you have referred a staff member into Pillar 1 and the service is unable to provide an appointment, the CHUB will automatically forward the referral through to the Pillar 2 Service so that a test can still be accessed.

#### Self-referrals

Staff can self-refer via the online government portal, which can be found here: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>

The only way to access Pillar 2 home testing is via the self-referral portal.