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Our Ref: CV-19 community testing
Your Ref:

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Invitation to the Covid-19 community testing programme

Dear Partner

I am writing to invite your staff and volunteers to take part in the Reading community testing programme.

Around one in three people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and can spread the virus without realising it. The community testing programme involves testing people who have no symptoms to find more people who are infected and might spread the virus without knowing. If people test positive for the virus, they and their close contacts isolate, which helps to break the chains of transmission.

How it works

In Reading, this type of community testing is being offered to essential workers and volunteers who cannot work from home, who have contact with service users, and who do not have access to testing through their employer. Staff and volunteers are invited to take part even if they have had a vaccine.

There are two test centres in Reading, at:

- Rivermead Leisure Centre, Richfield Avenue, Reading RG1 8EQ
- South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Both venues have free parking onsite and you can travel there by bike, public transport or on foot. The sites are open Monday-Friday, 8am-7pm.

Testing is by appointment, book online at www.reading.gov.uk/CommunityTesting

People should NOT come for a test if they have symptoms of Covid-19 (a cough, temperature or loss of taste or smell). Anyone with symptoms should immediately self-isolate, along with their household, and book a test through the national system by calling 119 or going to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

What happens next?

If the result is positive, the patient must self-isolate for 10 days along with the rest of their household. If anyone in the household develops symptoms, they should get a test through the national system. Staff should inform their employer of the positive result so they can take steps to protect staff, customers and service users.

If the result is negative the patient can carry on as normal – which means continuing to follow the Covid-19 guidance such as washing hands frequently, wearing a mask in indoor spaces, keeping a safe distance and not mixing with other households – and getting tested twice a week. Although your result may be negative now, you could still pick up or transmit the virus after leaving the site.

Please help get the message to your staff and volunteers.

Along with this letter we are providing you with materials to help you get the message to your staff.

There is more information on our website www.reading.gov.uk/CommunityTesting and if you have specific questions you can contact CVnotifications@reading.gov.uk

As part of keeping your staff and community as safe as possible, we urge all eligible staff to take the test regularly. Early diagnosis of as many cases of the infection as possible is important to stop the virus from spreading. Thank you to you and your staff for taking part.

Yours sincerely

David Munday
Public Health Consultant for Reading