INTRODUCTORY NOTE
EXPANSION OF COVID-19 TESTING

The Scottish Government is committed to Coronavirus testing for key workers or their family members to allow them to get back to work as soon as it is safe to do so.   We are working with UK Government to extend testing to a wide range of key workers and are writing to inform you of an expansion of the UK Government Testing Programme for priority key workers in Scotland.

This programme operates separately from the existing NHS testing programme in Scotland, which supports testing for clinical purposes and priority staff in the NHS and social care sector.

The Scottish Government has now issued a prioritisation matrix which explains which key workers should be able to access testing through the UK Government Testing Programme. This guidance provides more information on who those key workers are and how you can assist them in accessing testing.

In summary, a new online portal has been established where employers can register and refer self-isolating staff or members of their household. The aim is to make the process of getting an appointment as simple as possible. In addition to this employer led testing, it is also possible for individuals to book tests online themselves.

As this is a UK Government run programme if you need technical assistance please contact DHSC at opshub@dhsc.gov.uk. Employees who have been referred for a test can seek assistance from the Coronavirus Testing Helpdesk on 0300 303 2713 for any technical issues related to their booking.

As you will be aware from media reporting these services are experiencing very high levels of demand, which is being carefully monitored by DHSC.

We are working closely with the UK Government to respond to the Coronavirus outbreak and testing is an important part of that. We are grateful for the assistance of businesses in helping ensure that key workers are able to access testing.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT