



MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Officers, Community Healthcare Organisations

From: David Walsh, National Director, Community Operations

Date: 21/03/2020

Re: Memo on Testing by NAS at long term facilities

Dear Colleagues

Please find attached revised guidance on testing by NAS specific to long term facilities in addition to this guidance it should be noted in respect of residents of these facilities

- **All** testing needs a **medical** referral as highlighted.
- Appropriate use of clinical discretion in identifying residents who are potentially symptomatically Covid Positive applies (i.e. routine testing of low probability COVID should be discouraged).
- If multiple residents / potential cluster are identified within a unit/centre then this should be identified within the referring email and individual names of all residents referred to be listed on same.
- Following confirmation of a Covid positive diagnosis within the unit/centre then it is assumed that all residents presenting with symptoms are Covid positive. Multiple re-referrals to NAS for potential COVID cases should be avoided.
- Normal pathways for all non-COVID presentations to NAS pertain at this time.

Signed:

David Walsh, National Director, Community Operations