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Prioritisation of Health Care Professionals for COVID 19 Testing - v.3.1

Change from v2.0 – Allows testing of GPs under this procedure

Health care workers may require COVID19 testing to be in a position to return to patient care duties. These important health staff need to be prioritised over other candidates for testing. A negative test will allow them to return to work quickly.

The following procedure describes how this will be done.

1. All HCW priority referrals must be authorised and referred by a Public Health Specialist or Occupational Health Specialist, or in the case of a GP who is symptomatic and requires testing, another GP or one of the above.
2. The referring Specialist or GP should email the request to neoc.covid19@hse.ie with “URGENT HCW REFERRAL” in the subject line of the email.
3. The email should include
 - HCW name address and mobile phone number
 - Requesting doctor name and mobile number – the test result will go to this doctor from NVRL

In the case of a GP requiring testing, the GP needs to be referred for testing by another doctor, either another GP or a Public Health or Occupational Health Specialist.

4. The National Ambulance Service COVID19 desk will prioritise these tests- the quickest way to do so is to have the HCW attend a static testing point rather than wait for a home visit. HCWs should be told that they will likely have to travel to one of these points.

**Prof Cathal O’Donnell,
Medical Director,
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March 19th 2020.

