Dear Personal Assistant

**The Coronavirus National Testing Programme**

I am writing to you to ensure you have the latest information about the national testing programme that you are eligible to use. The Governments’ national testing programme which is designed to support you as essential key workers should you become unwell with Coronavirus symptoms.

There are a number of drive-through testing sites that have been opened for this purpose as well as a limited supply of home testing kits. To access either of these options, you must register on the self-referral portal if you or a member of your household are presenting with Coronavirus symptoms.

**Self-Referral Portal:**

Government have launched a new self-referral portal here: [**www.gov.uk/coronavirus**](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus). The self-referral portal allows essential workers who are self-isolating either because they or member(s) of their household have coronavirus-like symptoms, to register to be tested.

As a Personal Assistant all you have to do is register on the link and book a test for yourself and or for members of your household if they are also presenting with symptoms.

**Personal care assistants (PA) are deemed essential workers, and therefore are able to access tests via the self-referral portal.**

After registration, there are two ways to get a test:

1) Book an appointment at a regional testing site or

2) Request a home delivery test.

**Process for booking a test at a regional testing site:**

1. As an essential worker you click on the link and register your details (if you have symptoms) or your household member(s) have coronavirus-like symptoms. You will then be added to a list and depending on capacity at regional testing sites and will be invited to book an appointment for a test.
2. The individual(s) being tested will receive a text message inviting you to book an appointment. The text message will contain a link to the appointment booking system and a unique 16 digit code which looks like this:



1. You will then click on the text message link and be directed to the appointment booking system where you will be asked to enter your unique 16 digit code. You can then book a specific appointment for a coronavirus test at a regional testing site.
2. You will receive confirmation of your appointment via text message and email. These will contain a QR code, which will need to be shown to security at the regional testing site. Only one QR code is required, either on a smartphone or a printed copy of the email.
3. Test results will be emailed or texted to you within 48 hours of taking the test where possible.

**Process for self-referral for home testing:**

1. You will click on the link and register your details via the online self-referral portal (see information earlier). These details will be used to verify your identity before your order test(s) for delivery. If you have access to your work email, you should use this to support with the verification process.
2. You will then receive an email with a one-time code. If the email address cannot be verified, Government will need them to complete a short verification check through TransUnion. This is not a credit check- it is simply a way of verifying your identification. Alternatively, you can choose to apply for a test at a drive-through centre.
3. You will then be able to request up to five tests for members of your household displaying symptoms of the coronavirus. Order details should then be reviewed and confirmed.
4. You will receive a confirmation of your order by email, as well as details of what to do next. Tracking details for the delivery will also be provided. Once you receive your test kit you should follow the instructions provided.
5. Test results will be emailed or text to you within 48 hours of taking the test where possible.

More information and a thorough detailed guidance sheet to assist you further with registration, this can be found here: - <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50247/national_guidance_during_covid-19>

Further FAQs can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-people-receiving-direct-payments>. This FAQ will shortly be updated to include additional questions on testing.

Kind regards

June