**Social Care Staff Serology Testing SOP**

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| **York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust** | Social Care Staff Serology Testing SOP |  | | **DOCUMENTATION CONTROL**  The authorising signature will be in **red** to indicate if this is a master. |
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Serology (antibody) testing is a key part of the Government’s testing programme and will play an increasingly important role as we move into the next phase of responding to this epidemic.

Serology testing is now available to test staff member’s antibody level to Covid-19. Serology testing for social care staff is currently only available as below:

* Peppermill Court, York: Mon-Fri, 8am – 5pm

**NOTE:** Any staff based on the East Coast will need to access the service at Peppermill Court, there is no Serology testing for external staff available at Scarborough Hospital.

Testing criteria has been categorised into the below groupings, to meet the testing criteria you must either be –

1) Symptomatic since the 1st March 2020 who did not receive a covid-19 swab

2) Staff who have previously been symptomatic, were tested at the time and the result was negative (this will provide an idea of the false negative rate);

3) Asymptomatic staff who have had symptomatic family member

4) Staff deployed away from Covid-19 areas due to vulnerability

5) Staff who have never been ill and therefore not tested

6) Staff who have previously been swabbed and tested positive for Covid-19

Social care staff in any one of the above categories should contact York Teaching Hospital Patient Access Team (01904 725817) to arrange a date, time for the Serology test

1. Patient Access staff to follow call script for social care staff serology appointments, ensuring the below details are recorded on CPD:
   1. Full name
   2. D.O.B
   3. Address
   4. Mobile phone number
   5. NHS number if known (can be traced if not known)
2. Referral to be registered against ‘Dr Covid Nineteen’ and appointment booked in COVMICRO25 template
3. At the time of the appointment staff should present to the agreed location as above, and wait in the waiting area adhering to social distancing
4. The U&E sample container (brown top) should be used for blood samples
   1. Ensure location ‘Adult Social Care Staff (YDASC)’ is recorded
   2. And requestor is recorded as ‘Dr Covid Nineteen’
5. Consent form (Appendix 1) must be completed by staff member, checked by the blood taker and used as the request form as well. The consent form must accompany the sample to the labs.
6. Information Team will provide data extract on a fortnightly basis to OH who will be responsible for sending text message results to staff
7. Staff must not look up their own results or request a colleague to look up their results; they will receive their results via text message within 14days to the number provided when booking their Serology appointment.

**APPENDIX 1: CONSENT FORM FOR EMPLOYEES**

**What is an antibody test?**

An antibody test can tell someone whether they have had the virus that causes Covid-19 in the past, by analysing a blood sample.

**What do antibody test results mean?**

A positive antibody test demonstrates that someone has developed antibodies to the virus. The presence of antibodies signals that the body has staged an immune response to the virus.

Covid-19 is a new disease, and our understanding of the body’s immune response to it is limited. We do not know, for example, how long an antibody response lasts, nor whether having antibodies means you can’t transmit the virus to others.

Our understanding of the virus will grow as new scientific evidence and studies emerge.

An antibody test result can only tell an individual whether or not they have had the virus in the past. Antibody tests are also being used currently in surveillance studies, to understand what proportion of the population have already had the virus.

**If you test positive for antibodies, can you ignore lockdown restrictions?**

No. There is no evidence yet to suggest that those who have been proven to have had the virus are immune. This is the position of the World Health Organisation.

You should continue to comply with social distancing measures and government guidelines. All infection prevention and control measures must continue to be in place irrespective of the presence of antibodies.

**How will I be informed of the result?**

Communication of the result will be via text message to the mobile number provided on the staff member’s consent form, getting your result can take 14 days or longer.

**How will my information be used?**

The anonymised results across the testing programme will provide information on the prevalence of COVID-19 in different regions of the country and help better understand how the disease spreads.

**Are there any risks to having the test?**

There are some risks related to having a blood test, such as feeling dizzy and faint during and after the test but nothing specific to this antibody test. Risks can also include bruising at the venepuncture site. Serious complications such as an infection at the site where blood was taken and phlebitis (swelling of the vein) are possible but generally extremely unlikely.

**Please indicate which category you consider yourself to be in by circling one of the below numbers:**

1)Symptomatic since the 1st March 2020 who did not receive a covid-19 swab;

2) Staff who have previously been symptomatic, were tested at the time and the result was negative (this will provide an idea of the false negative rate);

3) Asymptomatic staff who have had symptomatic family member

4) Staff deployed away from Covid-19 areas due to vulnerability

5) Staff who have never been ill and therefore not tested

6) Staff who have previously been swabbed and tested positive for Covid-19

**Consent**

* I confirm that I have read the above information; I understand that my participation is voluntary and I consent for this procedure.
* I have had the opportunity to consider the information and can confirm that I understand the nature and purpose of this procedure, together with the benefits and risks.
* I have confirmed a positive test will not mean at this point that I am immune and therefore I will continue to behave as if I might get or pass on the infection
* I declare that the information I have given on this form is correct and complete.

First name –

Surname –

Date of Birth –

Mobile Number –

Organisation/ Department -

Home Address –

Sign –

Date -

**Unique Location Code – YDASC – York District Adult Social Care**

**PLEASE NOTE: Consent form to be sent with the blood sample to the labs**