



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Care Home Testing Webinar

Update for Directors of Public Health and Directors of Adult
Social Services

August 2020



HM Government

What we will cover

- Update on roll out of testing for adult social care
- Weekend testing
- Key improvements in antigen testing
 - *Bulk Registration*
 - *Unique Order Reference*
- Addressing your concerns
 - *Void/inconclusive test*
 - *Randox recall update*
- Introduction to antibody testing
- Q&A



Rollout of testing for adult social care

Testing progress



5,000,000 tests

5 millionth test kit delivered to a care home by NHS Test and Trace last week



September expansion

From 31st August all adult care homes will be eligible to apply for regular retesting, for dispatch from 7th Sept



Priority areas

Continue to prioritise providing test kits to care homes in areas on the PHE Watch list



Outbreak testing

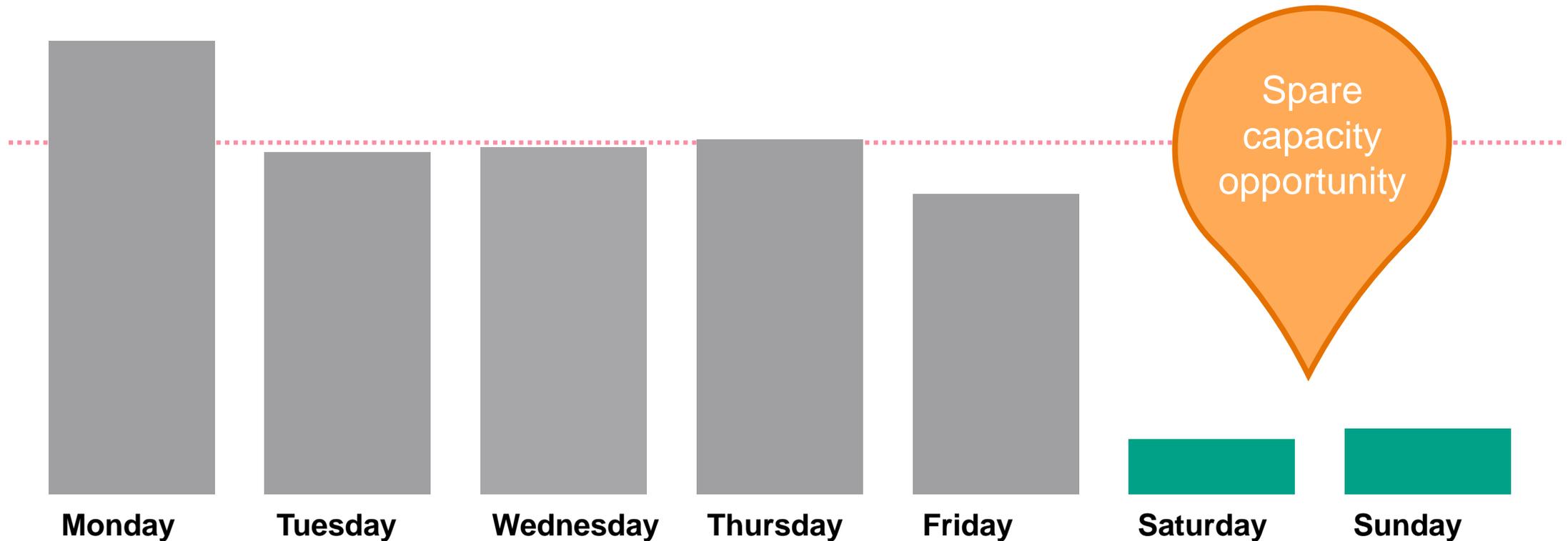
If a case of coronavirus is identified in your home, you should notify your local HPT immediately for Outbreak testing

Weekend testing

Why is weekend testing so important?

The majority of care home testing occurs midweek, which means labs are operating at full capacity during the week but have under used capacity on weekends.

If care homes undertake testing more evenly throughout the week, we can deliver more kits and test more people overall



**Data shows average return of test kits by day between 1st July and 19th August*

How you can help us deliver weekend testing



Communicate the importance of weekend testing to care homes in your area



Inform care homes how they should elect to commit to weekend testing



Support care homes with any questions they may have about weekend testing

Key improvements in antigen testing

Key improvements in antigen testing



Unique Organisation Number (UON)

To use all of the National Testing Programme's services, users will be assigned a new 8 digit unique organisation number (UON), which will be used to identify them when using services.

This will replace the care home ID that is currently used for care homes.



Multiple registration upload

Care homes and other user groups will soon be able to upload and register up to 50 test kits at the same time, if they were completed that day.

This will significantly reduce the administrative burden for care home managers

Addressing concerns in testing

Void and inconclusive results

We are continuously reviewing reasons for void and inconclusive results, to reduce occurrences of these



Adult social care consistently return high quality samples, with one of the lowest rates of void or inconclusive results across the programme



The majority of void tests from care homes are due to vials leaking during transit

Radox recall update

On the 12th August we contacted all care homes with detailed instructions for how they should return any Radox test kits that they may have in your care home. All unused Radox test kits must be returned immediately using the recall portal.

Print return label

- Print Radox recall return label,
- Label should be downloaded on the gov.uk care home testing portal

Package in cardboard box

- All Radox test kits must be packaged in a large cardboard box
- The Radox recall return label must be printed and stuck to the box so that it is clearly visible

Book Courier

- A special courier should be booked to collect recalled test kits the next day
- Special couriers should be booked at <https://www.testkitrecall.co.uk>

Collection

- Special courier will arrive the next day between 09:00 am and 13:00 pm if booked before 17:00 pm.
- Care homes must ensure that the return label is visible on the return box



Anti body testing for adult social care

Antibody testing for social care staff

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What is the antibody test?

- The antibody test is a voluntary blood test which involves taking blood from the arm and determines whether you have had Coronavirus
- Antibody tests are now being provided in some areas, free of charge by the NHS to those in paid adult social care employment, whether they have had symptoms or not
- Antibody test results will help to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country and may be helpful in the future if scientific research is released with conclusive findings about immunity

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Accessing antibody tests

- Antibody testing services are being provided locally in different ways and across varying timescales, including through community clinics, acute clinics, mobile testing and primary care
- Over the next few weeks, we will be contacting care homes with more information about the availability of antibody testing in your area
- We are creating a dedicated antibody testing mailbox which will be communicated to all care homes so you can request information about antibody testing in your area and register your interest

There is currently no evidence to show that someone cannot be re-infected with the virus, or pass it on to others, or that they have protective immunity. Anyone with a positive antibody test will need to continue following government guidelines, such as social distancing and using PPE.

Recap

Recap: What we have covered

- Update on roll out of testing for adult social care
- Weekend testing
- Key improvements in antigen testing
 - *Bulk Registration*
 - *Unique Order Reference*
- Addressing your concerns
 - *Voids/inconclusive test*
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Q&A

Thank you for joining our webinar

