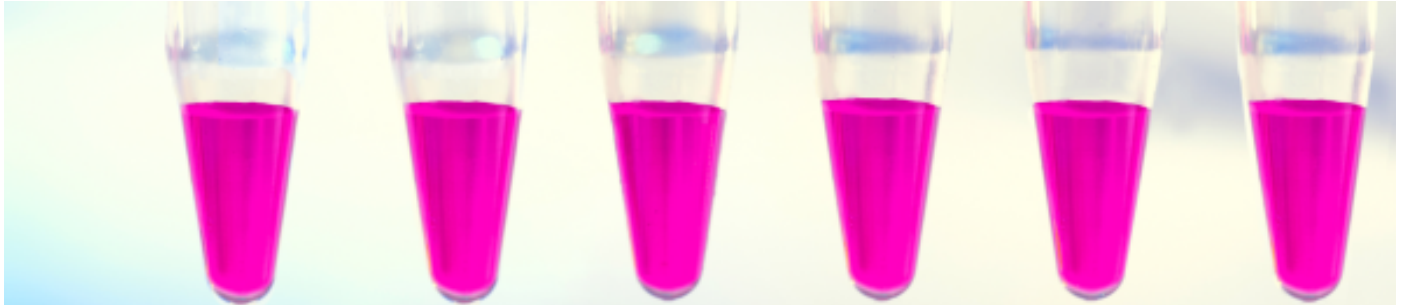


COVID - 19 Testing Guidance for Sunbeam Fostering Carers



We have received new guidance from Ofsted relating to testing available for foster carers, children and other household members. The requirements are specific though and only apply where symptoms are being displayed, so the testing is not available for all. Please see the specific guidance below and kindly discuss this with your social worker or local Registered Manager (Alison, Shams or Emma) and we can put you forward for a relevant test.

We are maintaining our health log for foster carers and children with symptoms, so we will contact relevant carers to discuss this also.

Relevant guidance

Ofsted is working with the Department for Health (DoH) and Social Care in the roll out of the Covid-19 testing programme for key workers. We hope that this can offer some reassurance at this difficult time and help you all feel safer, as well as providing the much needed capacity to care for and support children.

Sunbeam is now able to access testing for your foster carers who are self-isolating because they or a member of their household is displaying symptoms of Covid19. The test is for the person(s) displaying symptoms.

To access a test, please contact Sunbeam and will assist you to complete a relevant form. You would then need to attend one of the test sites at the agreed time. Following submission of a relevant form, Ofsted will then contact you directly to make the necessary arrangements. For the form we will require the relevant person's name, email and preferred contact number.

It is critical that only eligible individuals are sent to test centres for COVID-19 testing. This is to ensure efficacy of the test itself, and to ensure that all tests are being used to help get keyworkers who are isolating back to work.

Who can I nominate?

You can nominate your keyworker colleagues and members of their household for testing under the following circumstances:

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- **Self-isolating because the keyworker (foster carer) is symptomatic**

In this instance the keyworker is the only eligible person in their household to receive a COVID-19 test. No other members of their household are eligible.

- **Self-isolating because an adult (over 18) in their household is symptomatic, but the key worker (foster carer) is not**

In this instance only the symptomatic household member living with the keyworker is eligible to come to a test centre to receive a COVID-19 test. It is that household member whose data must be collected by Sunbeam on the form – with the key worker's name noted. The key worker will not receive a test. If more than one household member is symptomatic, but not the key worker, then all household members with symptoms should be tested.

- **Self-isolating because a child (under 18) in the keyworker's (foster carer's) household is symptomatic, but the key worker is not**

If a keyworker is self-isolating due to a child in their household showing symptoms, that child can be tested. Children aged 12-18 can use the test themselves or have their parent or guardian perform the test. Children aged 5-12 must have the test performed by a parent or guardian. Test kits are unsuitable for under-fives. If a child under-five has coronavirus symptoms, please follow current NHS guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

- **Self-isolating for other reasons**

If the keyworker is self-isolating for other reasons and is not themselves symptomatic, they are not eligible to be tested.

Process after a form is completed

Ofsted and the DoH/Social Care are looking to book appointments over the coming days on a priority basis following receipt, so please respond us to as quickly as possible if you consider you would be eligible for a test. Once a completed form is submitted, you will then receive instructions on how to access your test.

Please note: The person being testing must drive to the centre. There is no option to use public transport, walk or take a taxi. If the person being tested cannot drive, they should arrange for a household member to drive them through the test site and they must sit in the passenger seat behind the driver.

If you have any questions on asking for a test, please contact Sunbeam directly and not Ofsted. Ofsted have specifically contacted us to liaise with you and this is an important priority together where individuals are eligible.