



**MEMORANDUM**

**To: Chief Officers, Community Healthcare Organisations**

**From: David Walsh, National Director, Community Operations**

**Date: 21/03/2020**

**Re: Memo on Testing by NAS at long term facilities**

**Dear Colleagues**

Please find attached revised guidance on testing by NAS specific to long term facilities in addition to this guidance it should be noted in respect of residents of these facilities

- **All** testing needs **a medical** referral as highlighted.
- Appropriate use of clinical discretion in identifying residents who are potentially symptomatically Covid Positive applies (i.e. routine testing of low probability COVID should be discouraged).
- If multiple residents / potential cluster are identified within a unit/centre then this should be identified within the referring email and individual names of all residents referred to be listed on same.
- Following confirmation of a Covid positive diagnosis within the unit/centre then it is assumed that all residents presenting with symptoms are Covid positive. Multiple re-referrals to NAS for potential COVID cases should be avoided.
- Normal pathways for all non-COVID presentations to NAS pertain at this time.

**Signed:**

**David Walsh, National Director, Community Operations**