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To Whom It May Concern

10th September 2021

Our ref: IM/

Dear Colleague,

Care Sector Covid Testing

The last 18 months have been challenging for us all, not least those of you who work in the care sector. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise your hard work and dedication, and to thank you for this. I would also like to thank you for the infection control measures you've implemented in order to keep your clients and colleagues safe.

These measures have included regular Covid testing, firstly in our testing centres, then through peer-to-peer, and latterly including Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs).

As you may know, the LFT programme has developed in the past few months, as more evidence and guidance has become available. As a result of this developing guidance, we now offer self-swabbing LFTs for all those working in the care sector, in education and early years settings and for secondary school students, twice per week.

As a reminder, to be eligible for testing, you must register on the Government of Jersey website; the website also contains information about how to test yourself and how to submit your results. The method you use for taking your sample is important, and so we have recommended that your self-swabbing is supervised; this means someone will watch you and confirm you're using taking the test correctly.

Up to now, we have advised that self-swabbing should be conducted in the workplace. This is so that workplaces know that their staff members have completed their self-swabbing, can oversee their method, and can upload the results.

From now on though, as a result of the accumulated experience, you may wish to advise your staff that they can undertake tests in their own homes, twice per week, before they come in to work. However, each individual must still be registered, and upload their results (or provide evidence to their employer, for their employer to upload the results). Individuals need to immediately isolate and call the helpline if they test positive on LFT, and they must also book a PCR if they develop any symptoms.

We have made good progress in our management of Covid, thanks to the tenacity of Islanders, the many difficult sacrifices that they have made, and thanks to your hard work and dedication in the care sector.

But COVID-19 continues to present a potential ongoing risk to vulnerable individuals, particularly those who are not fully vaccinated, and I thank you for your continued adherence to public health and infection control guidelines, and for continuing to test regularly.

I hope this letter helps to clarify the current guidance regarding self-swabbing LFTs for people working in the care sector, and I would like to thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr I Muscat', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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