



31 May 2020

COVID-19 TESTING OF THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE

GMB, the Union for Health & Social Care staff has campaigned since the start of the Coronavirus Pandemic (Covid-19) for testing of all staff working in health and social care.

The Government have been far too slow to roll out testing to our crucial key workers, leaving many GMB members, their families and the people they care for vulnerable.

Although the Government has now committed to providing tests for all health staff that have Covid-19 symptoms and all social care staff, we are still receiving many reports from our members about being unable to access tests and also reports of employers using tests as a way of forcing them back to work, or in the case of social care staff - forcing them to take time off work on Statutory Sick Pay only.

GMB supports the testing of all health and social care staff, including those working for private employers, providing that it does not result in a financial detriment and our position is outlined below:

- We need universal and regular testing of all staff, regardless of whether they have symptoms.
- Anyone that tests positive should follow Government advice on self-isolation and receive their full and normal pay for the period of absence, including any enhancements and the absence should not count towards their sickness absence records.
- Negative test results should not automatically determine whether someone should return to work, specifically if they are still unwell or showing symptoms.
- Negative test results do not mean that the individual did not have Covid-19 and the period of absence should still be deemed as Covid-19 related and not count towards any sickness absence triggers or result in a financial detriment.

If you have any concerns about the access to testing or the implications of test results in your workplace, please contact your local GMB Representative.

If you believe you have been put at risk of contracting Covid-19 at work, please complete the GMB Covid-19 Risk Register at <https://www.gmb.org.uk/covid-19-risk-register>

Not a GMB member? Join today at www.gmb.org.uk/join

Want to be a GMB Representative in your Workplace? Email PublicServices@gmb.org.uk