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The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals
NHS Trust

Your ref:
Our ref: 044.20/MB/JH
Date: 20 October 2020

Sent by email to:

North East and Yorkshire Region
Acute Trust Chief Executive Officers

Martin Barkley
Chief Executive
Trust Headquarters
Pinderfields Hospital
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Dear colleagues

Re: Pausing of COVID-19 antibody testing

Over recent weeks we have supported the commitment to test NHS and social care staff for COVID-19 antibodies. This has been a substantial achievement with tens of thousands of tests carried out across the North East and Yorkshire region.

Some of you have completed this activity, others of you are continuing to provide this support; and in some localities your Directors of Public Health have asked you to pause testing to eliminate the potential infection transmission risk associated with those being testing travelling to testing sites.

Following the lead of the DsPH above, advice has been sought from PHE as to the sensibility of continuing this testing and based upon that advice I would advise that you pause your testing activity until it is safer to do so. Given the pressures that our pathology services are encountering due to the Roche incident, pausing would also support managing our response to this incident.

I note that in the last few days a home testing kit for antibodies has become available for social care staff, and I believe that it will become available for NHS staff shortly. Please could you advise your social care colleagues of this alternative option to your provision for those still awaiting a test. Details of this service may be found at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-antibody-test.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Martin Barkley
Chief Executive

Chairman – **Keith Ramsay**

Chief Executive – **Martin Barkley**