

COVID- 19 Testing Residents

Background to testing

- [COVID19: Action Plan for Social Care Department of Health and Social care April 2020](#)
- **Control of the spread of infection** through support and advice on how to keep care settings safe, Provision and use of Personal Protective Equipment and better testing for care home residents of COVID-19 status and providing effective isolation strategies or cohorting policies across health and social care

When testing should be carried out ?

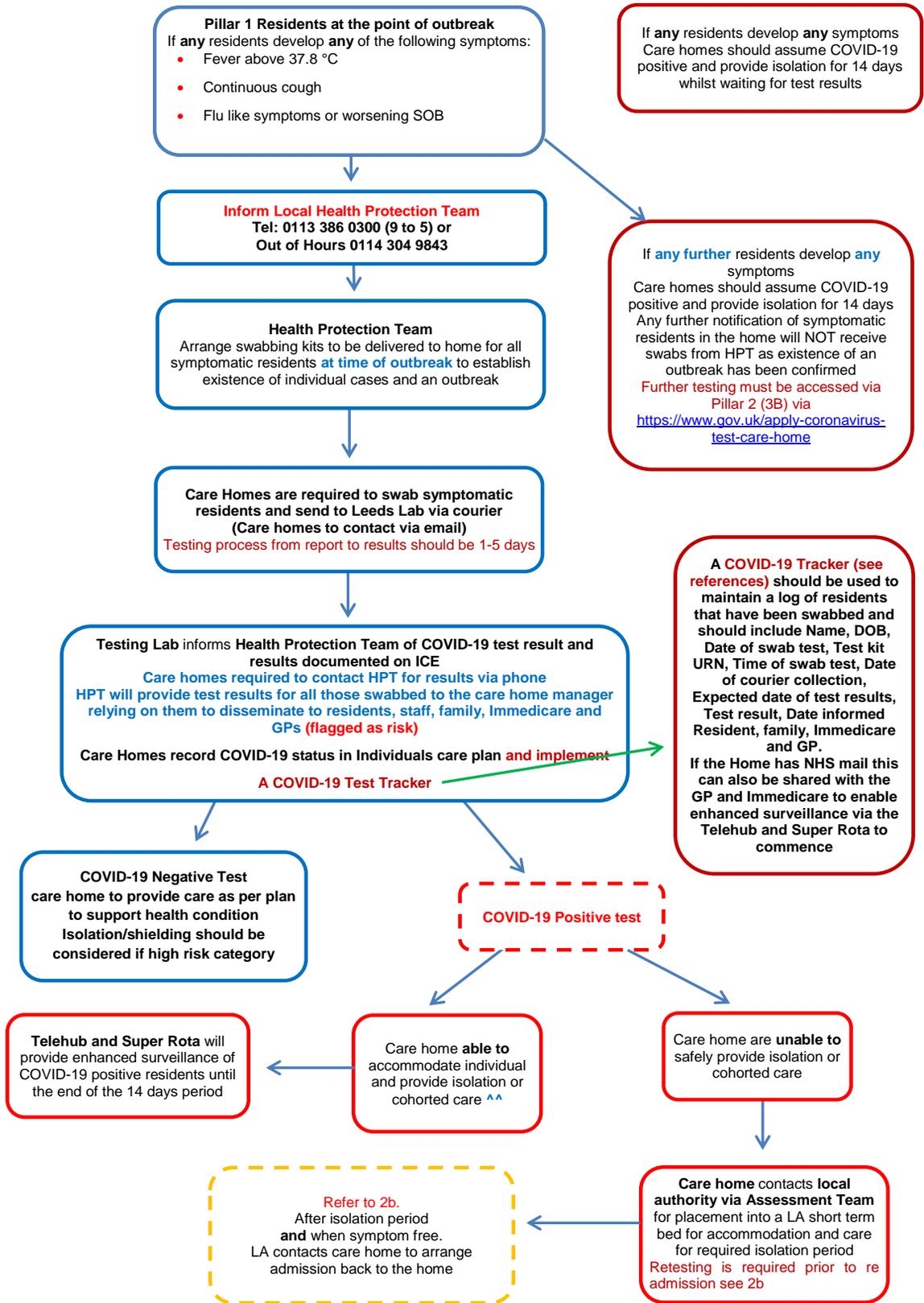
- At point of outbreak - residents that are symptomatic in the care home (Pillar 1)
- Testing of subsequent residents and post outbreak (Pillar 2)
- Discharge from hospital going in to a care home
- Admission of individuals in to a care home from community setting

residents that are symptomatic in the care home

Pillar 1 Residents at the point of outbreak

- **At the point of an outbreak** contact the Public Health England local Health Protection Team on: **0113 386 0300** or **out of hours on: 0114 304 9843** if any residents develop **any** COVID-19 symptoms. HPT will send swabs for the number of people that are symptomatic at that time/provide advice
- If any residents develop **any** symptoms care homes should assume COVID-19 positive and **provide isolation/barrier nursing for 14 days and whilst waiting for test results**
- Swab symptomatic residents following PHE guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> and send to the laboratory for testing via courier.
- Where care home providers are unable to carry out the swabbing procedure they should call Immedicare telemedicine nurses in the first instance for support.
- Whilst waiting for tests care homes **should assume COVID-19 positive and provide isolation for 14 days** for any residents showing any of the symptoms.
- Contact HPT for test results via phone on: **0113 386 0300**.
- Communicate the results to the resident/family, staff and GP.
- **Register any COVID-19 positive residents with Immedicare** who together with the **Super Rota**, will provide enhanced surveillance and support for that person during the isolation period and beyond if unwell.
- Maintain a **COVID-19 Test Tracker**
- **Local Infection Prevention Team specialist advise**

1. Pillar 1: Residents at the point of outbreak in a Care home



Pillar 1 Residents at the point of outbreak
If **any** residents develop **any** of the following symptoms:

- Fever above 37.8 °C
- Continuous cough
- Flu like symptoms or worsening SOB

If **any** residents develop **any** symptoms
Care homes should assume COVID-19 positive and provide isolation for 14 days whilst waiting for test results

Inform Local Health Protection Team
Tel: 0113 386 0300 (9 to 5) or
Out of Hours 0114 304 9843

If **any further** residents develop **any** symptoms
Care homes should assume COVID-19 positive and provide isolation for 14 days
Any further notification of symptomatic residents in the home will NOT receive swabs from HPT as existence of an outbreak has been confirmed
Further testing must be accessed via Pillar 2 (3B) via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-care-home>

Health Protection Team
Arrange swabbing kits to be delivered to home for all symptomatic residents **at time of outbreak** to establish existence of individual cases and an outbreak

Care Homes are required to swab symptomatic residents and send to Leeds Lab via courier (Care homes to contact via email)
Testing process from report to results should be 1-5 days

Testing Lab informs Health Protection Team of COVID-19 test result and results documented on ICE
Care homes required to contact HPT for results via phone
HPT will provide test results for all those swabbed to the care home manager relying on them to disseminate to residents, staff, family, Immedicare and GPs (flagged as risk)
Care Homes record COVID-19 status in Individuals care plan and implement
A COVID-19 Test Tracker

A COVID-19 Tracker (see references) should be used to maintain a log of residents that have been swabbed and should include Name, DOB, Date of swab test, Test kit URN, Time of swab test, Date of courier collection, Expected date of test results, Test result, Date informed Resident, family, Immedicare and GP.
If the Home has NHS mail this can also be shared with the GP and Immedicare to enable enhanced surveillance via the Telehub and Super Rota to commence

COVID-19 Negative Test
care home to provide care as per plan to support health condition
Isolation/shielding should be considered if high risk category

COVID-19 Positive test

Telehub and Super Rota will provide enhanced surveillance of COVID-19 positive residents until the end of the 14 days period

Care home able to accommodate individual and provide isolation or cohorted care ^^

Care home are unable to safely provide isolation or cohorted care

Refer to 2b.
After isolation period and when symptom free.
LA contacts care home to arrange admission back to the home

Care home contacts local authority via Assessment Team for placement into a LA short term bed for accommodation and care for required isolation period
Retesting is required prior to re admission see 2b

Ongoing/Post Outbreak Testing

Pillar 2: Whole home testing via Department of Health and social care portal

- Whole home testing approach following identification of an outbreak, which is currently having a phased roll out. This service is currently **only available to care homes which look after older people or people with dementia**.
- Test kits should be ordered through the [Care Home Testing Portal](#)
- Access via online registration process in order to ensure the receipt of results. (need CQC registration number).
- Questions about test kit registration ?
- Contact the **Coronavirus Testing Call Centre on 0300 303 2713**. (Open 07:00 to 23:00 every day)
- Complete swab test of **all** remaining residents not yet tested. (Guidance available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lo6g-TYZ-c&>)
- phased roll out – Under 65s – asymptomatic homes – regular testing

Discharge of new and existing 'residents' going in to a care home setting from hospital

Guiding Principles related to the discharge of patients

- **Infection free homes must be kept infection free.**
- This means anyone who is COVID-19 positive should not be sent to a home that is COVID-19 free.
- Homes that already have residents with COVID-19 symptoms/confirmed COVID-19 should have a discussion, led by the discharge team, to determine their ability to manage additional patient admissions
- All re-starts of packages of care and discharges must be managed by the hospital discharge team
- In order to achieve these principles residents may go to a LA COVID/NON COVID suite for isolation/cohorting
- **Any residents that are discharged and are asymptomatic should be isolated for 14 days** to mitigate against any transmission of infection as a precaution

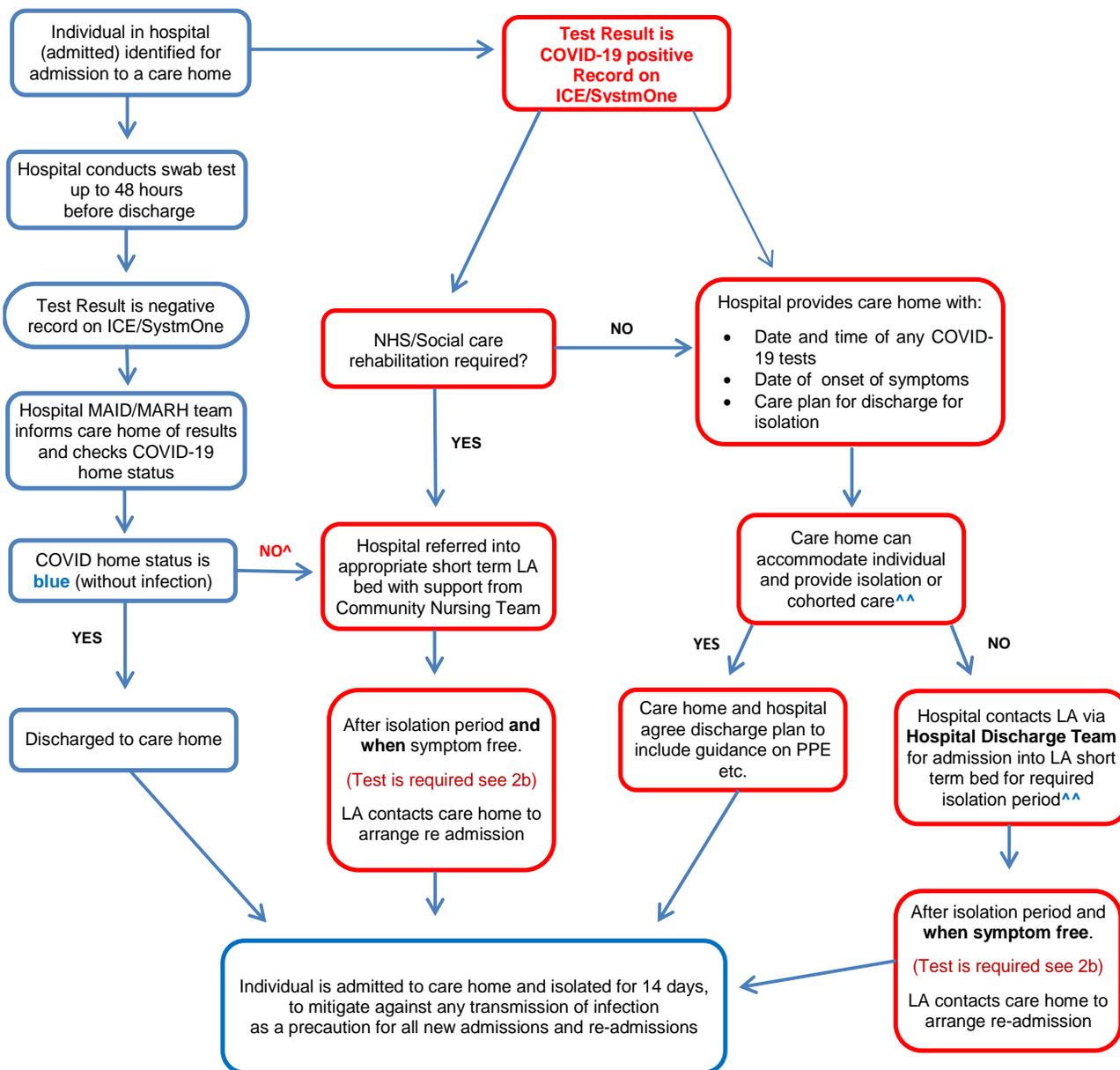
What does the care home need to do?

- Send **Red Bag Hospital Transfer Pathway** documents with all residents going to hospital. The **Assessment/SBAR** form should include the **current COVID-19 status of the home** i.e. is the home COVID-19 positive or infection free. If this changes while the resident is in hospital, the care home should inform the hospital ward/discharge team as soon as possible.
- **Work with the hospital ward/discharge team prior to discharge on individual test results and understand individual's care needs.** Care homes should also report any changes to the COVID-19 status of the home i.e. Is the home COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 free.
- Working with the principles of **keep infection free homes infection free**, care homes should note if the test is negative and the home has positive status as consideration will be given for alternative accommodation in LA 'Non COVID' suite.
- **If the resident is COVID-19 positive, they will not be discharged to a care home that is COVID-19 free.**
- **If COVID-19 positive test in a COVID-19 positive home**, care homes should confirm with the hospital discharge team as soon as possible if they are able to accommodate these individuals through effective isolation strategies or cohorting policies.
- **Register any residents that are COVID-19 positive with TeleHub** so that they can agree a plan for enhanced support 'ward rounds' based on individual needs.

Our guiding principles related to the discharge of patients

- Infection free homes must be kept infection free. This means anyone who is COVID-19 positive should not be sent to a home that is COVID-19 free.
- Homes that already have residents with COVID-19 symptoms/confirmed COVID-19 should have a discussion, led by the discharge team, to determine their ability to manage additional patient admissions
- All re-starts of packages of care and discharges must be managed by the hospital discharge team

1. Discharge from hospital to a care home



NO^ - consider if admission to a LA non COVID suite required to meet keep homes infection free principle

^^ Telehub and Super Rota will provide enhanced surveillance of COVID-19 positive residents for 14 days and beyond if remains unwell

Admission from a community setting

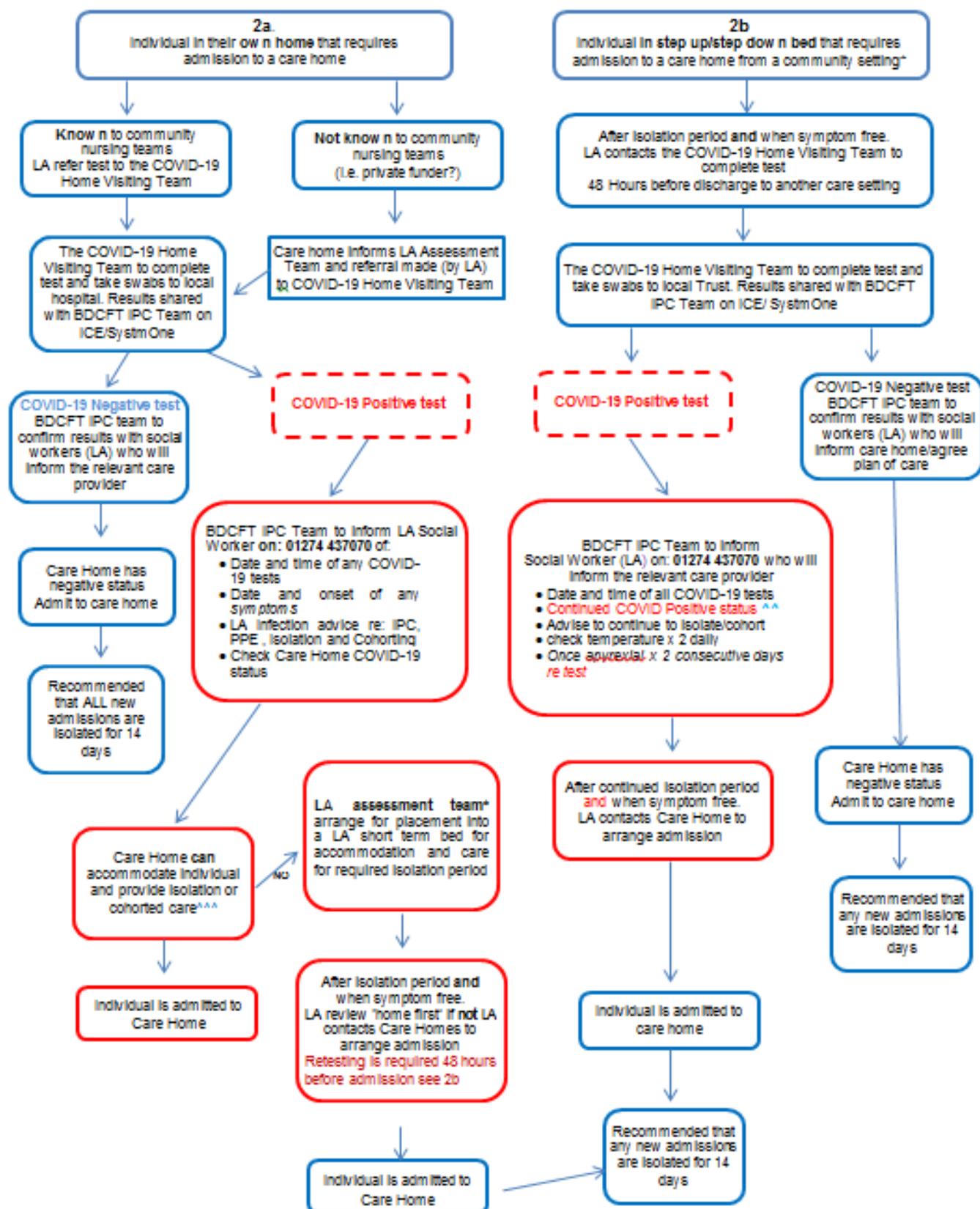
Any new admissions from community must be tested prior to admission.

- **Individuals coming from the community OR transferring from another care facility (i.e. LA short term bed/COVID suite) need to be tested prior to admission to the care home**
- **All new admissions will require isolation for a 14 day period** to mitigate against any transmission of infection as a precaution

How will this be done?

- BDCFT COVID-19 Home Visiting Team will carry out any tests required for people in community settings prior to admission/transfer to a care home
- Referrals for Testing are made through the **LA assessment team on: 01274 437070**
- For people living in community who have referred directly to the care home, (i.e. private funders) **care homes** are required to contact the LA in the first instance to arrange testing via the COVID-19 Home Visiting Team prior to admission.

2. Admission from community OR transferring from one care home to another



Who should I contact ?

Pillar 1 Residents at the point of outbreak

If **any** residents develop **any** of the following symptoms:

- Fever above 37.8 °C
- Continuous cough
- Flu like symptoms or worsening SOB
- Loss of taste/smell (anosmia)

Inform Local Health Protection Team

Tel: 0113 386 0300 (9 to 5) or
Out of Hours 0114 304 9843

Pillar 2 – Subsequent testing for ongoing outbreak and post outbreak testing Via DHSC

Test kits should be ordered through the [Care Home Testing Portal](#)

If a manager has questions about their test kit registration, contact the **Coronavirus Testing Call Centre on 0300 303 2713.**

Discharge from Hospital

Infection free homes must be kept infection free

Work with hospital discharge team for safe discharge
Refer to LA COVID/NON COVID Suites for Isolation/Cohorting

Admission to care home from a community setting (own home/, LA bed,)

BDCFT COVID-19 Home Visiting Team will carry out any tests required for people in community settings prior to admission/transfer to a care home

Referrals for Testing are made through the **LA assessment team on: 01274 437070**

This is a fast moving process, it is expected that this will be a 'live' document that will be updated as we receive further guidance