



## Joint Communication Covid-19 Testing Initiatives

Royal Mail Group and the CWU are proud to be playing a key role in the delivery and return of Covid-19 test kits for all Key Worker Groups. This is a vital part of the national effort to combat the coronavirus.

The Government has chosen Royal Mail and its unparalleled nationwide network to lead as the Prime Supplier on the following initiatives:

1. Collection and transportation of samples from the Government test centres to the testing laboratories will be carried out by the Royal Mail Relay Business Unit. Royal Mail Relay are transporting samples from 46 drive-through test centres set up by the government and taking them directly to testing labs across the UK.
2. A 'Home Collection Service' will be provided by Royal Mail to collect test samples from home address and return to the testing laboratories, via Mail Centres or Collection Hub utilising the High Volume Tracked 24 Return. By the end of this week, 30 Mail Centres will have been on-boarded to meet the anticipated ramp up in volume.

In recognition of the unprecedented current crisis and extremely demanding timescales set by Government to establish this service, as a matter of expediency collections will initially be performed by eCourier on an interim basis. However, in order to capture the envisioned increase in volumes necessary for full scale testing as this initiative develops, the intention will be to migrate the collection element to an in-house solution within existing Royal Mail operations. Both parties are therefore committed to develop and agree appropriate operational arrangements and SSOW to enable the migration of workload as a priority.

3. Collection of samples from Priority Postboxes which is now expected to launch in May 2020. Key workers will be able to post their samples into Priority Postboxes.

For all of the above processes all packaging complies with World Health Organisation guidelines.

The provision of a testing facility will enable Key workers who are self-isolating at home as a precautionary measure, to return to work and relieve pressure on their frontline colleagues where a negative test for the virus is received.

Royal Mail have worked with the Chief Medical Officer to ensure that the operational processes put in place are effective and safe for all colleagues and are supported by the necessary Health & Safety documentation and Safe Systems of Work (SSOW).

Royal Mail and the CWU will work together to ensure that we play our part in the national effort to support our NHS.

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