

# COVID-19 Notice



Monday 08 June 2020

## Mobile Testing Teams

Many of you may recall that, in mid-May, the Health Minister, Robin Swann announced a significant expansion to the COVID-19 testing programme in care homes. NIAS was asked to support the programme through the establishment of “mobile testing teams” to enhance testing capacity. We were pleased to be in a position to do so as we recognise that care home residents are among the most vulnerable in the community and we believed it was both important and appropriate to provide this support to our colleagues in the other Trusts who deliver the majority of testing within care homes.

A NIAS “Care Home Testing Team” was established drawing upon the skills and expertise of Ruth Finn, Stephanie Leckey, Tina Cooke, Andrew Patterson, Karen Seddon, Julia Wolfe, William Graham, Jacqueline O’Neill, Bronagh McQuillan, Yvonne Craig and Martin Ferris.

The timeframe for establishment of the team was short and putting arrangements in place so quickly could only be done as a result of the co-operation of all involved including Joanna Smylie and Sean Maguire who provided co-ordination and training at the outset. As our input to the programme draws to an end we would like to thank each of the team for their willingness to be involved. We are grateful to each one of them, driven by a personal desire to provide the best care for patients at their time of need, no doubt their compassion, commitment and dedication has been evident to the staff and residents within care homes.

