

Primary Care Leads

Cc: Directors of Public Health, NHS Boards  
Medical Directors, NHS Boards  
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

23 August 2021

Dear Colleague,

**For information and for distributing to GPs/GP Practice Managers**

Primary Care leads are asked to assist with the successful roll out of the Post Positive PCR Antibody Testing Initiative (PPPATI) through forward distribution of this letter and accompanying guidance to GP practice managers to in turn forward on to GP practitioner colleagues.

**Post Positive PCR Antibody Testing Initiative (PPPATI) - UK roll out**

A UK-wide national antibody programme is being launched across Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland to support the UK Government, devolved administrations and NHS to better understand vaccine effectiveness and immune response to COVID-19.

The new UK-wide antibody testing service roll out, known as the Post Positive PCR Antibody Testing Initiative (PPPATI), will formally launch on Tuesday 24 August 2021.

PPPATI is for surveillance purposes and no additional action is required from healthcare practitioners.

PPPATI widens the eligibility criteria for antibody testing and will offer everybody over the age of 18 the opportunity to opt-in to antibody testing when registering for a PCR test via Gov.uk. Randomly selected individuals, out of those who opt in and subsequently test positive for COVID-19 following a PCR test, will be sent two finger prick antibody tests to complete at home and send to labs for analysis. The first antibody test will be taken immediately after testing positive, and the second test will be taken 28 days after testing positive.

Individuals will receive their antibody test results directly.

A UK wide national press notice was [published via GOV.UK](#) on 22 August to launch the PPPATI service. The press notice includes the following information for COVID-19 positive patients: [How to look after yourself at home if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

## **PPPATI patient communication touchpoints**

- the national press notice information on GOV.UK when registering for a PCR test and opting in to receive a randomly selected antibody testing kit
- instructional information sent with antibody testing kits
- national marketing assets, including digital website banners and social statics for Local Authorities and NHS providers to use in local communications

## **COVID-19: Antibody testing for SARS-CoV-2**

The accompanying guidance is to assist healthcare practitioners in the primary care setting and aid in potential future discussions with patients regarding antibody testing, vaccination, infection, and risk.

Yours sincerely



**DR GREGOR SMITH**  
Chief Medical Officer