

Media Release

Date: 31 January 2021

East Arm testing facility supports essential worker testing

The East Arm testing facility is being used today to support the testing of essential workers in a range of critical areas.

Supermarket staff and ports staff are amongst those being tested at different intervals today to ensure that these areas are carefully monitored, and to give assurance that staff are able to continue working safely.

The entire community is in lockdown and must stay at home, only leaving for essential reasons or their 2 hours exercise or activity. Significant numbers of people across the community are also being asked to self-isolate for different reasons, some because they have been directly in contact with a positive case and contact traced by the Contact Tracing team, and others because they attended one of several specific events such as the Festival of Dance, where Public Health have asked all those who attended to self-isolate.

To support some of the essential services impacted by the self-isolation measures for those wider groups linked to events, the States of Guernsey are working to put in place support through targeted testing to allow staff to continue working where it is appropriate to do so.

Separately to these measures, a small number of positive cases have been identified and linked to one supermarket, the St Sampson's Co-op Grande Marché. The States and the Channel Islands Cooperative Society have quickly acted to close this store today, deep clean the premises and carry out testing for all staff in order to reopen the store as quickly as is safe to do so. Customers of this store do not need to self-isolate unless they are directly contacted by the Contact Tracing Team. They should continue to follow lockdown rules and stay at home, only leaving for essential reasons and they should report any symptoms to the clinical helpline on 01481 756938 or 01481 756969.

Ends