

Gaelic Games Testing Programme & Screening Programme 2020

This document outlines important information on the Covid Testing Programme and also on the new Screening Programme for inter county Gaelic Games.

Process: 1. Counties who wish to avail of either the Testing or Screening programme should in the first instance make phone contact with the GAA Player Welfare Manager **Kevin Leahy Ph: 0858756600**.

2. At that point, an assessment can be made as to the most appropriate approach for the particular panel (Rapid Testing or Screening) depending on the circumstances of the request.

3. Further detailed information will also be provided on both programmes, on the nature and implications of the tests and so on. In the interim, the high level details below outline the main points for each:

1. Rapid Testing Programme

The Rapid Testing programme for inter county teams can be utilized to test some or all players in the week of a game where Counties believe it is necessary to do so.

The County Board (Secretary or Covid Officer) or Team Doctor can make immediate phone contact with the GAA Player Welfare Manager **Kevin Leahy Ph: 00353858756600**. Priority will be given to teams who have a game in that particular week.

If rapid testing is required for the squad and backroom team, the County Board will submit a "Covid-19 Incident Report form" via the link that is provided [HERE](#)

The Testing Provider will then be contact through Croke Park to make an official request for testing to take place at an appropriate time, venue and date (likely to be the next evening)
The Testing provider will then commence their testing process:

STEPS	Test Outcome
1. Squad members sent a link to register and book their testing slot on the secure platform – includes consent for testing	1. Squad member will be contacted by the Testing Provider by telephone & informed. Result will also be sent electronically.
2. Squad member turns up at their allocated timeslot to undergo Covid-19 testing	2. Testing provider will also inform the approved personnel such as the Team Doctor, Covid-19 Officer or Team Supervisor or another designated official
3. All samples are then taken by courier to the relevant lab for analysis.	3. In the event of a positive test, the Testing provider will inform Public Health authorities
4. Once samples are analysed (within 24 hours), results are imported to the squad members profile on the secure platform.	

2. Screening Programme

An optional screening programme is also available for players and backroom personnel involved in Intercounty Championships.

Currently testing, as a screening tool, is carried out on people with symptoms or those in close contact with people who have tested positive unless considered in a high-risk employment or care facility.

Testing used as a screening tool in asymptomatic individuals is looking at a point in time and a negative test does not rule out infection. While rapid antigen testing is a new means of testing, it is less sensitive than PCR testing but quicker.

The Antigen screening Test will involve a nasopharyngeal swab being taken on site at a training session or other meeting set up for this purpose. Results should be available within 15 minutes

Positive Indication - For individuals who indicate a Positive result, the following steps should be followed:

1. Immediately return home and self-isolate.
2. A full PCR test will be organised via the Gaelic Games Rapid Testing Programme. This will generally be organised within 36 hours.
3. In the interim, the person should not attend work or any further Gaelic Games activity (training sessions, games etc) should self-isolate and avoid interaction with anyone else including family
4. Once the Result of the PCR test is known, the individual (if positive) will be contacted by the HSE with further advice and the process of establishing the individual's close contacts will commence. Any person deemed a close contact (family, work colleagues, panel or backroom team members) will have to isolate for 14 days and will not be allowed involvement in any Gaelic Games activity.
5. However, If the result of the PCR test is negative, the individual may cease isolating and return to normal activities (presuming they are symptom free or are not a close contact of a positive case).

Negative Indication - If the Antigen Test provides a negative indication, no further action needs to be taken by the individual unless that individual has symptoms or is a close contact of a positive case.

However, it is important to note that a negative indication does not mean that an individual is Covid-free - rather, that they are unlikely to have the virus at that point in time.

None of the above should override the basic instructions for players and backroom personnel in relation to the Coronavirus protocols. If an individual has relevant symptoms, they should not attend training or games, should contact their GP or Team Doctor and follow whatever advice is then given. Individuals should only present for training or games if they are symptom free.

Individual behaviour is paramount in preventing infection.