



The Government of Sark

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A COMMITTEE OF THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK

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Advice regarding surge testing in Sark. 12th August 2021

We have been advised today, Thursday 12th August, at least seven visitors to Sark last weekend who are no longer on island, have subsequently tested positive for COVID-19.

Guernsey Public Health Services have advised that we should carry out surge testing for staff working in venues that this group attended, and this has commenced today.

These visitors did attend several local establishments which have been informed and the Medical Centre are contacting these premises to obtain surveillance swabs.

Surge testing is done as a precautionary measure to enable us to try and detect any further cases and prevent onward transmission of the virus. Public Health Services use this routinely to follow-up potential contacts of a case.

Please do not contact the Medical Centre unless symptomatic. If you are included in the surge testing the Medical Centre will contact you.

However, if you are experiencing any symptoms then please do contact the Medical Centre to arrange for testing.

Symptoms include:

- *Headache, sore throat and a runny nose**
- *Tiredness, new and severe fatigue (recent onset)*
- *Aches and pains, new muscle ache for no obvious reason (recent onset)*
- *Headache (sinus pain, pain around eyes)*
- *Conjunctivitis (itchy, watery, painful or pink eye(s))*
- *Loss of taste or smell*
- *Sore throat*
- *Fever (high temperature, rigors, chills, can't get warm)*
- *Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath*
- *Dry cough (Continuous new cough)*
- *Diarrhoea*
- *Children and Over 80s – loose stool, mild fever, not themselves with a cough presenting later*
- *A rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes (seek urgent medical advice)*
- *Chest pain or pressure, shortness of breath, chest tightness (phone the emergency services on 999)*
- *Loss of speech or movement (phone the emergency services on 999)*

Some younger people with the **Delta Variant are presenting with headache, sore throat and a runny nose, so symptoms similar to the symptoms of a bad cold. Parents/carers are asked to be vigilant for these symptoms and request a COVID-19 test however mild the symptoms are. A runny nose associated with **known** allergies such as hay-fever, animal/pet hair or other irritants, which responds to antihistamines or other prescribed medication do not require referral for a COVID-19 test.*

Thank you