**BSW COVID-19 Antibody Test Service (ATS)**

Antibody testing has a critical role to play in helping the UK learn about the level and length of immunity following infection and how the virus is spreading across the country. It will play an increasingly important role as we move into the next phase of responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

An Antibody Testing Service (ATS) has been mobilised in the BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire region in response to a request from NHS England. The service is supporting a number of different healthcare organisations with ATS Testing for their employees including GP Surgeries, Virgin Care Children’s, Virgin Care BaNES, Dorothy House and Community Pharmacy and has now been extended to Social Care staff (including Care Homes and Domiciliary Staff)

**PLEASE can you ensure all your staff in general practices are aware of the offer for testing – it’s by voluntary informed consent informed but the offer has to be made to all staff.**

**Where are the clinics?**

Five clinics have been set up across BSW:

* Hathaway Surgery, Chippenham
* Moredon Medical Practice, Swindon
* Salisbury Medical Practice
* Keynsham Health Centre
* Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley

***How can you help?***

***We are still looking for phlebotomists to take blood samples at the clinics to ensure tests can be offered to all eligible workers in a timely fashion, especially now with the roll out for social care colleagues.***

***Please share this with of your phlebotomy teams.***

All equipment is provided and administrative resource will be available onsite to support.  The service is operating 7 days per week and shifts are typically six hours from 09:00 to 15:00 and 15:00 to 21:00, although alternative timings can be accommodated depending upon availability. The service administration, appointment bookings and scheduling of phlebotomy resource is being coordinated by Medvivo.

Anybody who is interested in this opportunity should e-mail mg.ats@nhs.net. More detailed information about the service will be provided directly once contact has been made.

***How will phlebotomists be remunerated for their time?***

Any phlebotomists who support the ATS by picking up additional hours will be paid via their employer who will then be reimbursed from the Covid fund via the CCG.

If this is not an option, then a temporary staff contract could be offered via Medvivo. Again please contact Medvivo via mg.ats@nhs.net stating this preference.

Indemnity will be covered by the national Clinical Negligence Scheme that has been implemented as part of the Covid response.

Please contact the CCG if you have any questions regarding pay for supporting this service.

This is an excellent opportunity to further contribute to the response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.