VCFSE supporting coronavirus (COVID-19) – Local Testing Supporters

**Why it is important for people to get tested?**

Testing is needed to find people who have coronavirus (COVID-19), whether or not they have symptoms, so that we can put in place targeted support for them to self-isolate and other measures to control the spread of the virus in the community, as well as ensure they get access to health care services when needed.

**What we want you to do?**

We value your local knowledge and networks and your ability to talk to local people in ways that are familiar and right for them.

As a local trusted VCFSE sector group or organisation, you understand your local communities’ concerns and worries about coronavirus. You are able to discuss with your beneficiaries, community members, friends and neighbours about the disease and explain to them why it is important to follow the guidance, get tested and self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

We need to you to help us reach people and encourage them to have a test and follow the guidance to keep everyone safe from coronavirus.

**What will we do?**

Before you take part in this activity. We will undertake a health and safety risk assessment.

We will provide you with:

* A grant investment for your community group or organisation of £1,000 for your participation
* training on coronavirus, the key messages on the advice on how to keep safe and stop the spread of the virus, and the key local messages.
* training on coronavirus, the testing process and how to discuss testing with local people
* clear instructions about the activity
* any resources you may need
* support and regular check-ins

**What you will do**?

* attend a (virtual) training session on coronavirus, the key messages and the local picture, and the testing process and watch a video on how to do a self-swab test.
* become a member of the Covid Community Engagement Network (info sharing email network with opportunities to meet as an online network)

**Details of the types of activities:**

* Support a very local ‘pop-up’ community testing site in a local area – meeting and greeting and helping people feel safe and reassured
* Deliver and collect home test kits (for people to self swab) door-to-door as part of a Door-Step testing team
* Welcome people to attend the test site at Southgate Street and/ or other venues and/ or provide information to help them if they need to self-isolate e.g. signposting to emergency helpline/ place-based hubs for support to access emergency food, medicines and non-food essential supplies.

**Skills needed**

* Ability to communicate clearly with local people in simple English and / or local community languages and /or accessible appropriate ways to communicate
* Follow health and safety instructions and coronavirus safety and infection control advice in delivering this activity.

**Want to get involved?**

If you can help with this critically important work please email volunteering@actiontogether.org.uk with the following information:

1. Your Name:
2. Your tel number:
3. Your Group or organisation name:
4. The Communities / areas in Oldham that you are connected to:
5. The Communities of identity that you are connected to (eg, women, LGBTQI, young people, BAME, etc)
6. How many volunteers or staff you can involve
7. That you want to get involved in Local Testing Supporters