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Care With A Difference



20/30 LABS
MORE THAN A TEST RESULT

Press release: WBE residential care trial

Northampton, 21 February 2022

20/30 Labs are delighted to announce our collaboration with Avery Healthcare Group for the trial of a new approach to infection control through the analysis of wastewater in residential care and assisted living facilities.

Wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) is a relatively new approach utilised to give comprehensive health information on communities. WBE has been used to help monitor the circulation of poliovirus for decades and more recently as an early indicator for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in communities. While SARS-CoV-2 is primarily thought of as a respiratory virus, it also affects the digestive system. SARS-CoV-2 can be shed in the stool of individuals up to 3 to 5 days before the onset of classic symptoms as well as in asymptomatic individuals. Wastewater monitoring detects signals from the infected population, regardless of symptomatic status. WBE in England currently covers around 70% of the population, supporting the national response to COVID-19.

The trial is sponsored by ACE (Accelerated Capability Environment) and EMHP (Environmental Monitoring for Health Protection) and closely monitored by the DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care), Home Office and ASC (Adult Social Care).

EMHP's innovation partner, ACE selected 20/30 Labs as the commercial partner to deliver this trial, in October 2021.

Zoe Laughton, Managing Director of 20/30 Labs, says: "*We are privileged to be working with Avery and the government on a project that has the opportunity impact the future of infection control in communities significantly. This project perfectly embodies 20/30's 'more than a test result'- a key goal of our business is to add value to our customers and the patients and communities they serve; our passion for infection prevention and control, our drive for innovation and our expertise in environmental microbiology and clinical PCR.*"

Sharon Winfield, Chief Operating Officer of Avery Healthcare, says: "*This trial is an important part of Avery's commitment to excellence within the care home sector. We hope to lead the way with 20/30 Labs, the DHSC and UKHSA to implement innovations in virus-control to keep our residents, staff and families safe.*"

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20/30 Labs Ltd is a UKAS accredited testing laboratory (No. 4236) in accordance with ISO 17025, and was established in 2005 to perform microbiological analysis and research into hospital decontamination. Over the years 20/30 Labs has gained vast industry knowledge and contacts and is today considered to be the UK's leading microbiological consultancy specialising in the microbiological analysis of waters, the decontamination of medical devices. In 2020-2021, 20/30 Labs has been approved by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) as one of the select few private and independent Laboratories to be listed as a supplier for a full range of screening testing for Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) by RT-qPCR. Over the past twenty-four months we have closely supported the national effort in delivering many thousands of vital Covid-19 tests. In 2021, 20/30 Labs received SME national business awards for this work, specifically in the Business Innovation and Positive Impact categories.

Avery Healthcare Group (averyhealthcare.co.uk) is a national care home provider with a current portfolio of 59 care homes nationwide, with more new developments in build, plus four independent living retirement communities (hawthornsretirement.co.uk). Their ambition is simple - to provide the very best residential, dementia, nursing, and respite care and fulfilling life to all its residents within a warm and friendly community. With a diligent approach to care, proactive focus on resident well-being, and the design of its homes, carefully selected staff enable Avery to provide residents with an enriching life and the opportunity to flourish. In 2021, Avery was awarded carehome.co.uk's Top 20 Rated Care Home Groups in the UK for the fifth year in a row and received recognition from Care Home Management at The Care Home Awards, winning the category for Best for use of Technology and a High Commendation in Best for Communication.