



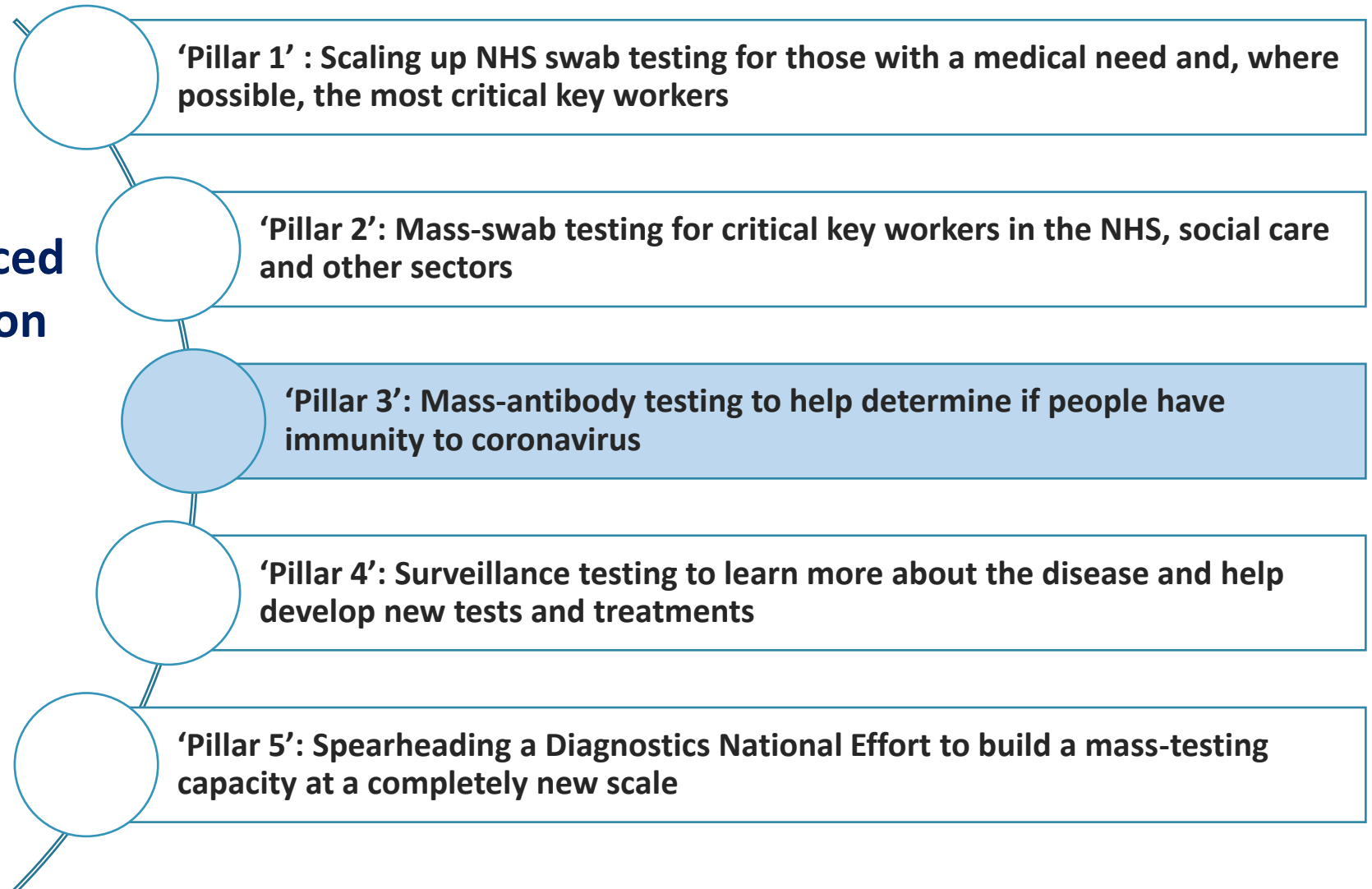
HM Government

# Webinar: Update on Pillar 3 of the Covid-19 National Testing Strategy: Mass-antibody testing

# Our National Testing Strategy

**The strategy was announced by the Secretary of State on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and has 5 key strands**

**The webinar today will focus on Pillar 3: Antibody testing**





## Work Stream 3 – Antibody Testing Update – Tamsin Berry, Director

- The third pillar in the Government's [testing strategy](#) is antibody testing: we are focused on at scale home-based testing to confirm whether people have had the virus and are producing antibodies.
- We are actively considering market-based solutions, however, so far, tests that have gone through the validation process have not proven accurate enough to be rolled out for public use to provide individualised results. Information on the methodology and results of the validation process is on BioArchive now. We continue to review new tests as they become available.
- In the meantime, we have put out a call to arms to the British diagnostic industry to support efforts to develop a home-grown test.
- Self organising, Industry has already responded impressively to this call to arms, with:
  - 1) the UK Rapid Test Consortium (UK-RTC) to design and develop a bespoke Lateral Flow Point of Care Test, and
  - 2) proposals for a high through put ELISA - We are working with the NHS, PHE and industry partners to explore how high-throughput serological tests might facilitate better understanding of sero-prevalence across the country.
- If we can find a test that meets our high clinical standards we hope to deploy antibody testing kits in large numbers.

# Antibody testing outcomes to date and next steps

Professor Sir John Bell

Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford and Head of the National  
COVID Testing Scientific Advisory Panel

**Information on the antibody testing outcomes will be on BioRxiv shortly.**





# Guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) tests and testing kits

Graeme Tunbridge

Director of Devices MHRA

To see MHRA guidance [here](#)



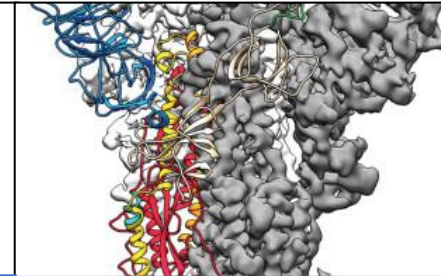
# Update on the Novel Solutions Challenge



# Update on novel solutions challenge

Number of submissions = 125

Number of registered users on platform = 402



Dry Swabs for use in virus detection

19 submissions  
3 category C  
2 category D

Transport Media that inactivates the virus

25 submissions  
7 category C  
1 category D

Desktop PCR equipment for Point of Care Testing

35 submissions  
4 category C  
1 category D

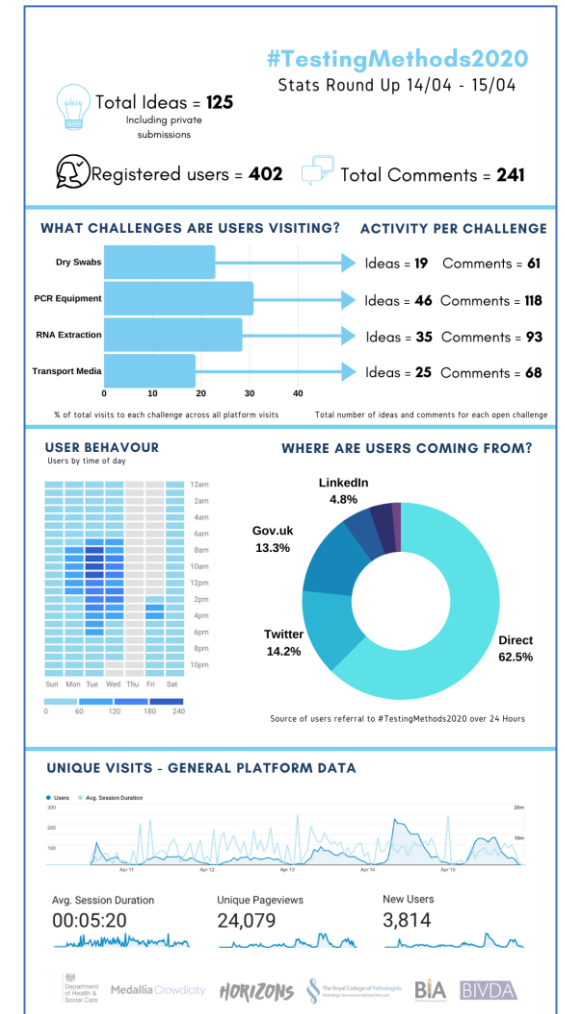
RNA extraction: New Methods

46 submissions  
2 category C  
10 category D

Category C: Idea has potential to contribute to goal but more info needed

Category D: Idea is ready for implementation

Categorisation ongoing - figures given are for those reviewed to date.



# We are now seeking novel solutions in another key area

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## Low volume blood collection and sample elution for serology testing

Serology testing largely depends on formal phlebotomy. In order to expand serology testing into the broader community, we need to be able to collect blood without the need for phlebotomy. We are looking for examples where small volume blood collection, coupled with elution where relevant, can be used for COVID-19 antibody testing for immediate or very rapid roll out.



#TestingMethods2020





# How you can get involved in this work

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- In partnership with Crowdcity, we have launched a **testing methods sourcing platform** to collect ideas on our specific challenges <https://testingmethods.crowdcity.com/>
- If you have a solution that addresses this new challenge, please register and add it to the platform. We want to know:
  - What is your idea/offer?
  - Have you validated this method, if so, how and what were the results of the validation?
  - How quickly could this be deployed and what are the dependencies?
  - What is the likely production volume?
  - What are the risks and barriers to using this at scale?
  - Who are you already partnering with on this?
- Even if you don't have a solution, you can comment to other people's solutions; we hope you'll be willing to share but you can also make a confidential submission
- Every solution and comment will be considered
- We will pause the platform on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> April to have an initial review of the solutions put forward

