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Lateral Flow Device Testing in Adult Care Homes

Supplementary information:
Answers to practical questions

16 August 2021

Lateral Flow Device Testing in Care Homes: Supplementary information

Version	Date	Update
V1.0	31 st Dec '20	First version
V1.1	8 th Jan '21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated on essential visitors – where someone needs to see relative urgently they do not to be tested unless the individual wishes to be tested. • More information on LFD tests specificity and sensitivity • What to do if an incorrect result is entered • Waste from testing • Updated information on supplies of test kits to care homes
V1.2	12 Feb '21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added more information on arranging a confirmatory PCR, waste, vaccination, recording results • More information on visiting professionals including dentists, optometrists, maintenance staff. • Added information on funding for testing • Further advice on where and when staff should do LFD testing • Updated advice on entering incorrect results on the portal • Information on the buffer solution • New advice on contact tracing after a positive LFD result • Inclusion of Helpline number • Outbreak testing and advice from local health protection
V1.3	12 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New SEPA LFD waste advice – tests can go in residual waste /“black bag” waste stream • Update helpline hours • Update visiting professionals advice • Update on registering tests including registering for an account and bulk uploads • Updated date (end of June 2021) for testing funding arrangements
V1.4	12 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated information on buffer solution • New advice on bar code scanners • Update on Covid Testing Portal • Advice relating to funeral directors (not to test) • Care Home discretion on the location of staff and visitor testing
V1.5	16 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated information on new kits – Orient Gene 7s

Purpose: Following the letter to care homes on 24 December about the expansion of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing, some FAQs have been developed to support implementation. It is a live document and will be updated regularly.

Further guidance

This document should be read in conjunction with core guidance materials on LFD testing in care homes:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult care home visitor testing guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/coronavirus-adult-care-home-visitor-testing-guidance/)

All staff members performing testing are required to watch the training video and read the staff guidance. This is also available on TURAS.

Visitor LFD testing

[Assisting care home visitors to test for COVID-19 using a Lateral Flow Device \(LFD\) | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#)

Staff LFD testing

[Assisting care home staff self-testing for COVID-19 using a Lateral Flow Device \(LFD\) | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#)

There are also **downloadable videos on LFD testing:**

[a video on LFT testing](#) for testing family visitor
[video for staff](#) in the care home
[a video for Orient Gene LFD testing](#)

A free helpline is available to provide advice on testing. Tel: **0800 008 6587**
available 09:00 to 17:00 every day

Groups who should be tested using the lateral flow devices (LFDs)

The following groups in care homes should be tested using lateral flow devices:

- designated family/friend indoor visitors to care homes see latest visiting [guidance](#)
- care home staff, twice weekly alongside PCR testing at work (enhanced testing) (from 4 January)
- visiting professionals to care homes (through their employer where relevant. For those who are not tested via their employer, they can be tested at the care home eg private podiatrists, essential maintenance staff).
- outbreak management staff testing at work if advised by health protection (from 4 January)

See letter of 24 December which outlines additional protective measures (including expanded testing arrangements) as a result of the new Covid-variant:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult care home visitor testing guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Coronavirus-(COVID-19):-adult-care-home-visitor-testing-guidance)

We continue to review care home testing programme and have asked SAGE for advice taking account of vaccination uptake, COVID-19 transmission levels and the prevalence of emerging variants.

Benefits of testing

Information on the importance of testing is available [here](#)

Regular testing provides an additional layer of protection against Covid-19 for individual staff, those they care for, their family and the wider public.

Testing does not replace or mitigate the need for the other layers of the protection that are already in place including PPE and infection protection and control. Testing must also continue after both the first and second dose of the Covid vaccine.

Both PCR and LFD tests are licenced and effective for picking up Covid in asymptomatic individuals (people who have Covid but who are not displaying any symptoms).

The swabbing method is the same for both PCR and LFD tests (please note – Orient Gene 7s are double nasal) - the difference is what happens with the test once the swabbing is complete (see guidance).

PCR tests are more sensitive than currently available LFD tests for Covid-19. That means that they can be done less frequently, on a once weekly basis. It is suggested where possible the test is undertaken on the same day (Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday each week).

LFD tests taken every three days prevent a similar amount of transmission compared to PCR swabs taken every 5 days, assuming that all symptomatic persons self-isolate upon onset of symptoms.

PCR tests may continue to detect viral fragments once someone is no longer infectious.

LFD self-testing is widely used across a range of different settings and is an approved process by the manufacturer. The number of inconclusive results is low and in line with expectations.

Staff testing is not mandatory, but recommended by the Chief Medical Officer

The use of LFD tests, as per the approach described in the letter of 24 December is not mandatory but it is highly recommended due to cases rising nationally as a result of the new COVID- 19 variant.

When to start using LFD testing

We recognise that care homes will need to put in place a number of mechanisms to implement the approach and work with local oversight and public health teams in doing so. We encourage care homes to commence LFD testing as soon as relevant staff have completed the training.

Before starting to use the LFD kits.

Before using LFD testing in your care home, staff should complete the training beforehand and done the competency assessment. There is no need for a sign off process from local oversight and public health teams. However these teams can provide any advice. For use of LFD in outbreak situations, advice should be sought from local public health who will supervise outbreak testing. Each care home should appoint a quality and governance lead for testing and key action areas are outlined in the 'Testing Quality and Governance' section of [COVID-19: Care Home Guidance for use of Lateral Flow Device testing \(designated visitors, enhanced staff testing, outbreak management\)](#).

Distribution of LFD test kits to care homes

Stock for twice weekly staff and visitor is sent to care homes directly. If you have any queries about your stock/ supply, please call the dedicated helpline 0800 008 6587 which is open daily 09.00 to 17.00.

If you have urgent requests for further test supply to support with outbreaks (*i.e you have a positive test on your premises, have contacted local Health Protection who have advised you to test all staff for the next 7 days*), please use the nss.covid19testorderrequests@nhs.scot mailbox, notify them of the situation and request additional kit. When making these necessary urgent requests, please include the following in your email request:

- Care Home Service Number (CS200XXXXXX)
- Number of staff
- The nature of the urgent request (e.g. outbreak, stock depleted due to a specific reason) If you are experiencing an outbreak, please add OUTBREAK in the email subject line and confirm you have been in touch with local Health Protection who have advised you to test all staff for 7 days.
- Current remaining number of Lateral Flow devices for staff twice weekly testing.

Information on the buffer solution/fluid

The buffer solution has a 24 month shelf life after it is opened and when stored at room temperature. A small one-off additional supply was sent to care homes in April to be retained carefully and only to be used if required, as it is not possible to order more buffer solution. The kit should be kept as a box of 25

For new Orient Gene 7s kits, the buffer solution comes in its own pack.

. As set out in the manufacturer's safety instructions, the buffer solution is not hazardous; however, if accidentally ingested, a medical practitioner should be informed.

Bar Code Scanners

Please find instructions below for use of the Newlands Barcode Scanners which are being issued to care homes in June and July. These are to be used to scan only the bar code on both PCR and LFDs and remove the need to key the number in manually. It is hoped the scanners will save you time. **Please do not attempt to scan anything else at all as this could change the scanner settings and cause issues.**

More information about the scanners is available at : [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): uploading LFD testing results and bar code scanners - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/topics/health/coronavirus/covid-19/testing/lfd-testing/lfd-testing-barcode-scanners)

Staff twice weekly testing using LFDs in addition to PCR testing

Location of test – discretion to for staff to do second LFD at home

From August 2021, care homes will be provided with LFD testing kits that will come in smaller boxes (Orient Gene 7s LFD test kits). These testing kits are approved for self-testing at home. Until this new stock is available, care homes will continue to use the Innova LFD kits of 25 tests within care home settings.

Once you start to receive the boxes of Orient Gene 7s, which are approved for self-test at home, you will have the discretion to allow your staff to undertake their second LFD test in their own home. This is not a requirement - it is up to you as the employer whether you allow staff to undertake LFD testing at home.

If you are satisfied that staff are fully trained to complete and record their LFD tests without supervision in their own homes, the following arrangements apply:

- **Staff should undertake one LFD test on the same day as their weekly PCR test on site at the care home.** Undertaking both the PCR and the LFD test will help to provide quality assurance checking.
- **Staff can complete the second LFD test midweek between PCR tests in their own homes.**
- If a member of staff is undertaking the second LFD test at home on the same day as a shift, they should do the test before travelling to work and ideally in good time to allow for cover arrangements to be made should they test positive. This will help reduce the burden of testing on care home capacity and help avoid further transmission of anyone who may test positive.
- If staff take testing kits home, these should be stored safely at room temperature.
- It is essential that all results (negative/positive/inconclusive) are recorded on the **National Services Scotland testing portal**: https://nhsnss.service-now.com/covidtesting?id=test_home either by the care home or by the individual staff member. Staff can register for an account with NHS NSS and record themselves as “care home staff” and the care home that they work at. This means it will be quicker each time someone uploads their results as they will not need to enter personal details multiple times.
- If the test is inconclusive, the member of staff should re-test. The care home should ensure that staff know how the test result is to be recorded. Recording of **all tests** is critical for our understanding of prevalence within the workforce and for informing the future testing strategy.

- It remains the care home manager's responsibility to monitor testing compliance and maintain records of the kits that are distributed to staff, including the LOT number.
- It is also important to remind staff that regular testing is vital even when they have been fully vaccinated as people can still catch and transmit Covid when vaccinated.
- Please be aware that testing uptake and recording will continued to be monitored locally by your oversight team and nationally. In the event of a decrease in testing and/or a rise in care home infections, you may be advised to reintroduce on-site testing for both LFD tests.

Swabbing technique for social care staff – new Orient Gene 7s (update August 2021)

From mid-August, Orient Gene 7s lateral flow tests will be made available for care home staff. These tests require a double nasal swab. Please continue to follow the manufacturer's Instructions for Use (IFU) which can be found in the box. These tests have been approved for home use (at the discretion of the care home).

Some people who have nose piercings or suffer from nose bleeds may not be able to carry out the double nasal Orient Gene 7s swab. In this case they should obtain LFD Innova 7s via the Universal Route [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).

If using up Innova 25s stock, you should continue to do a throat and nasal swab and follow instructions at:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult care home lateral flow device testing - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-care-home-lateral-flow-device-testing)

Date of first and second LFD test

The first LFD test should be done at the care home on the same day as the PCR and if the result is positive the member of staff should self-isolate and await the PCR result to confirm.

If this PCR test is negative they can return to work. If it is positive they must remain isolated. The second LFD test can be done later in the week at staff member's home if the care home allows this or at the care home . If this later test is positive staff should self-isolate and have a confirmatory PCR. Currently this is recommended to take place at work in the care home

Staff may work different shift patterns and so you may need to adjust individuals' testing days to fit with these.

Care homes should stick as closely as possible to the national testing policy while taking into account shift patterns.

You do not need to test all your staff on the same day as each other, and staff do not need to come into the care home on their days off for testing.

As noted above once LFD tests approved for self-test are available, homes will have the discretion to allow staff to undertake the second LFD test at home.

Staff who work part time for two consecutive days per week

The second LFD test per week should ideally be undertaken 3-4 days after the first LFD and PCR test. Once care homes have access to the smaller test kits of 7, which are approved for self testing, they will have the discretion of allowing staff to undertake their second LFD test at home.

Staff only working two consecutive days per week will require one PCR test and an LFD test completed on the same day.

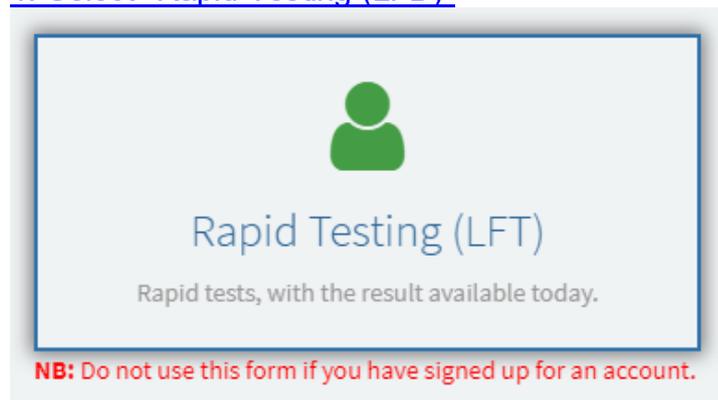
Recording the result

You should record the result on: www.covidtestingportal.scot.

There are two routes for recording tests – one for individuals with an account with NSS and one for individuals without an account with NSS. It is recommended that you register for an account with NSS as it will save time as there will be no need for you to add personal details multiple times. If staff are allowed to test at home they should register for an account and ensure that they record themselves as “care home staff” and the care home that they work at. This means the tests and results can be linked to the care home and monitored. Please record the LOT number for Orient Gene 7s (not id number).

If you have not registered for an account with NSS, please follow these steps:

1. Select “Rapid Testing (LFT)”



2. Select “Individual LFT Registration”

Please select what you need to do from the buttons below:



3. Complete this form:

Welcome Guest to the Rapid Testing (LFT) results portal

Covid-19 LFT Result

Individual Lateral Flow Test result

Please enter your Community Health Index (CHI) number if you know it

* Last name

* First name

* Date of birth

* Sex

4. When selecting the most relevant reason for the test, please select “Care Home Staff” or “Care Home Visitor”:

Ethnicity

* Please select the most relevant reason for taking this test

Healthcare Worker
Care home - Visitor
Care home - Visiting Professional
Haulier
Care Home Staff
Social Care

Hours	0	0	0
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* Please select the Result from the test

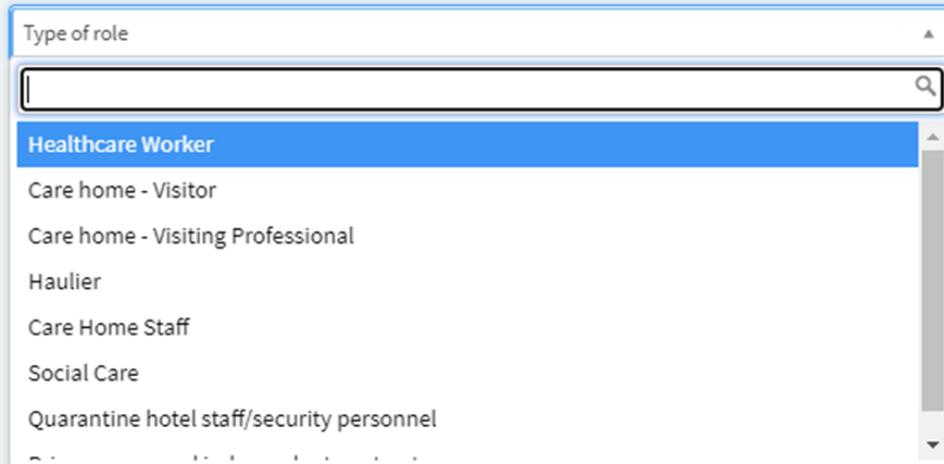
[If you have registered for an account with NSS, please follow these steps:](#)

[1. When selecting the most relevant reason for the test, please select "Care Home Staff" or "Care Home Visitor":](#)

Please provide information about your role

NB: If you cannot find your working location, you can enter "Other" in the drop-down.

* Type of role



The screenshot shows a search-enabled dropdown menu. The search bar is empty. The list of options includes: Healthcare Worker (highlighted), Care home - Visitor, Care home - Visiting Professional, Haulier, Care Home Staff, Social Care, and Quarantine hotel staff/security personnel.

[2. You will then have the option to specify care home and staff group. If you are a care home visitor then please enter the care home you visited.](#)

Please provide information about your role

NB: If you cannot find your working location, you can enter "Other" in the drop-down.

* Type of role

Care Home Staff ▼

* Please select your care home

▼

* What staff group do you belong to?

What staff group do you belong to? ▼

Previous

Next

Recording a positive, negative and inconclusive test

You should record the test result regardless of the result.

What to do if you test positive from an LFD test

You should undertake a confirmatory PCR test ideally on the same day and go home and isolate along with the rest of your household. If the PCR test is positive you and your household should remain isolated. A positive LFD result is now a trigger for contact tracing to commence so you will be contacted by test and protect.

If a staff member receives a positive test on duty, other staff members do not need to isolate. However, you must advise your local health protection team immediately who will provide advice on next steps.

Outbreak / Whole Home testing using LFDs / PCR tests

Following a positive LFD test, the local HPT conducts a public health risk assessment to decide if whole home testing (WHT) is appropriate. Local HPTs may instigate WHT after one positive LFD in an asymptomatic staff member depending on the risk assessment unless there is a very clear reason not to do so. HPTs will advise if WHT should use PCR or LFD tests.

What to do if you record the wrong result in the portal

If you accidentally enter your result as positive when you are negative, it is likely the contact tracing team will contact you. If they do, you should explain that there was a mistake. There is no need for you to isolate if the test result was negative. You should also speak to your manager and explain what happened. If you are in any doubt about the test result, take another test and re-enter your details with the test details and correct result on the portal.

Added functionality to the portal

From Monday 14th June, some new functionality was added to the Covid testing portal - [Welcome - COVID Testing Portal \(service-now.com\)](#).

The registration and log in process is now integrated with single sign-in, which allows you to use your existing nhs.scot or other work email address. When logged in, you can now view previous submissions you have made, and also change any personal information which has been stored as a part of your registered account. More work locations have also been added. If you could not find your work location when you originally created your account you should now be able to log-in, change your details and search for your current work location. Keeping this information up to date will help provide accurate data on the progress of the testing programme. Lateral flow results may now be uploaded in bulk.

More information about the portal may be found at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): uploading LFD testing results and bar code scanners - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Designated visitors/ essential visitors

Testing of care home visitors (designated visitors)

- family/friend indoor visitors should be tested see visiting [guidance](#)
- Note essential visitors who often need to see their relative urgently do not need to be tested unless the individual wishes to be. Essential visits should be supported to proceed at all stages of the pandemic, because they are just that – essential. LFD tests for routine (or non-urgent) visits from spiritual and faith representatives to people in the care home can be offered.

Family/friend visitors - discretion to allow LFD testing at home where test are collected through the community testing route.

Visitors who test via the universal route will continue to receive Innova 7s rather than Orient Gene 7s. Visitors should refer to manufacturer's Instructions for Use (IFU) which can be found in the box.

Orient Gene 7s will be available to visitors who test at the care homes (from mid-August onwards). Please use up your current Innova stock first. Follow the correct Instructions for Use (IFU) for your own test kit.

Visitors will now, subject to your discretion, be able to undertake an LFD test in their own home immediately prior to coming to visit by accessing LFD tests via community testing routes. Visitor testing at home is not a mandatory requirement; decisions should take into account the circumstances of your care home and your visitors. Not all visitors will be comfortable or able to test themselves, so you may wish to continue to support visitor testing at the care home for some or all of your visitors.

For those visiting regularly eg multiple times/ daily we recommend that a visitor tests a minimum of twice weekly. However, individual care homes have the discretion to decide whether or not that needs to be done each time.

If you are happy for the visitor to test in their own home, they will need access to a device such as a smartphone or tablet to register their result online at <https://nhsnss.service-now.com/covidtesting> . There are three ways of visitors accessing testing kits and information on how to do this is available at the following link - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms/>. Visitors may ring 119 or order online for home delivery or tests can be collected from the COVID-19 testing centres or picked up from local pharmacies <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>. The latter is a new service which commenced on the 9th May and has over 1000 pharmacies taking part.

The test should take place on the same day as the visit to the home. You may wish to ask for proof of a negative test, confirming date of test, to be shown prior to the visit, such as a confirmation email or text from NHS Test and Protect showing the result was uploaded. If visitors do not have access to a smartphone/ tablet, or are not able to produce confirmation of negative test result, you may wish to ask them to take the test at the care home.

Please note that the instructions in the LFD test kits supplied by the community route recommend recording results on the UK Government Department of Health and Social Care portal. These instructions will be updated in time to reflect reporting on the Scottish Portal. **In the meantime, please advise visitors to use:** <https://nhsnss.service-now.com/covidtesting>. A visitor leaflet is contained in Annex A which you may find helpful to give to family/ friend visitors who can test in their own homes. You can also adapt this leaflet to suit your own requirements.

Please be aware that in the event of a decrease in testing and/or a rise in care home infections, you may be advised by your local oversight team to reintroduce on-site testing.

If a visitor tests positive

If a care home visitor tests positive in the care home you must immediately ask the visitor to leave, and no visit can take place. Advise the visitor to go straight home and self-isolate and arrange to take a confirmatory PCR test following Scottish Government guidelines. Information on arranging a PCR test can be found here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Testing in Scotland | NHS inform.](#)

To note that a positive LFD result is now a trigger for contact tracing to commence so the visitor may will be contacted by test and protect.

Homes must handle a situation like this with sensitivity. Where possible alternatives such as other members of family and window and digital visits should be supported. If the visit relates to an end of life situation, you should seek advice from your oversight board. It may be appropriate to support the visit but ensure that all the normal IPC measures are in place.

If someone tests negative

Continue with the visit but is important to understand that testing visitors represents an additional layer of security and does not guarantee that the visitor does not carry the virus - therefore adherence to all other forms of protection would remain in place.

Visiting professional to care homes

- Visiting health and social care professionals should be tested twice weekly by their employer.
- Verbal confirmation of a negative LFD test within the last 72 hours from health and social care professionals who participate in testing through their employer should be accepted by the care home.
- The absence of testing is not a barrier to providing necessary clinical care in person - as long as PPE and appropriate Infection Prevention and Control procedures are observed.
- Other visiting professionals, such as maintenance staff, private podiatrists, hairdressers etc. who are not offered testing through their employers are encouraged **to undertake an LFD test at the care home**. Some visit several care homes - it is recommended that they test twice weekly; they do not need to be tested in each care home.
- Where visiting professionals, e.g. maintenance staff, are working over several days in the home, they should be tested on arrival on their first day and then later in the week.

Funeral Directors

Based on the nature of their work within care homes, it is considered that funeral directors do not need access to testing to carry out their work safely. Their role is distinct with no interaction with residents and minimal time in the home so testing

would not help reduce the risk of transmission in this setting. Testing is therefore not recommended - the work of funeral directors in care homes can be safely supported by physical distancing, the use of PPE, and appropriate cleaning and hygiene measures.

Agency staff

Whilst we recognise that agency staff may be crucial to support a home to remain open, learning from other parts of the world has shown that staff moving between homes can unwittingly carry the virus between homes. To minimise this therefore we recommend that homes make block bookings with particular members of staff to minimise the risks of staff moving between homes. Agency staff should be tested at the start of their first shift in a given care home using the LFD and if testing positive must self-isolate and arrange a PCR test.

Information about LFD tests

For more information on the rationale for LFD in care homes go to:

[Evidence summary for lateral flow devices \(LFD\) in relation to care homes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/evidence-summary-for-lateral-flow-devices-lfd-in-relation-to-care-homes)

Specificity and sensitivity of the LFD test The latest research on these tests found, when used by trained personnel, the Innova LFD test has a sensitivity of 76.8% - meaning it will identify more than 7 in 10 positive cases of COVID. This rises to over 95% of those with high viral loads – who are those most likely to be infectious.

PCR and LFD testing

PCR tests are more sensitive than currently available LFD tests for COVID-19. That means that they can be done less frequently. But it also means that they may continue to detect viral fragments once someone is no longer infectious for example. Furthermore, LFD tests have been validated in a number of settings including care homes ([Evidence on the accuracy of lateral flow device testing - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/evidence-on-the-accuracy-of-lateral-flow-device-testing)). Modelling work suggests that LFD tests taken every 3 days prevents a similar amount of transmission compared to PCR swabs taken every 5 days, assuming that all symptomatic persons self-isolate upon onset.

Rationale for confirmatory PCR test after a positive LFD test

Current advice is that a confirmatory PCR test is required in all cases.

If a LFD result is positive and the confirmatory PCR test is negative

If two tests were conducted at the same time and return different results, then please always refer to the PCR result.

Testing following a positive PCR COVID-19 test

A staff member who tested positive from a PCR test would commence/recommence LFD testing 90 days after their PCR positive test was taken. The staff member will need to liaise locally to track the date at which the retesting should start. However, if the staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms during that 90 day period, they must self-isolate in line with government guidance and arrange a PCR test.

Testing following an antibody test which shows the presence of antibodies

If staff have had an antibody test indicating they have antibodies, they should still undertake twice weekly LFD testing. At present, even if someone has previously had COVID-19 (and hence has antibodies), we don't yet know if that protects them from reinfection, or for how long. And the LFD test measures infection (i.e. antigen), not antibody, so a positive result indicates likely active infection. The only exception is if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 via PCR test within the past 90 days. A staff member who has tested positive via PCR should not commence/recommence regular COVID testing until 90 days after their positive test was taken. The staff member will need to liaise locally to track the date at which the retesting should start. However, if the staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms during that 90 day period, they must self-isolate in line with government guidance and arrange a PCR test.

Vaccination and testing

There has been considerable progress with vaccination of care home residents and staff. Even after vaccination has started however it is imperative that homes continue to comply with all IPC and PPE measures as the full benefits of the vaccine are not yet clear.

Current medical advice is that staff testing should continue even if you have been vaccinated with a second dose. The vaccination will not impact the test result. A full vaccination course will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. We do not yet know whether it will stop you from catching and passing on the virus, but we do expect it to reduce this risk. So, it is important that you continue to do testing and use PPE.

Duration of LFD testing in care homes

We are reviewing the care home staff testing programme and have asked SAGE for advice taking account of vaccination uptake, COVID-19 transmission levels and the prevalence of emerging variants.

Waste from LFD tests

Updated Guidance on Management of Waste from LFD testing - 30 March 2021

SEPA have updated their guidance on how to manage waste from LFD testing and it is available at: [SEPA Section heading](#). These updates follow additional public health advice on the risks of managing waste from lateral flow device testing. A document containing answers from Public Health Scotland and SEPA to commonly asked questions regarding the management of waste arising LFD testing for asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 is available at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Disposal of waste from Lateral Flow Device Testing in Scotland - FAQs - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

The SEPA guidance notes that:

- in community and workplace settings, where testing is on a small scale (such as at care homes), waste from LFD tests can be placed in the residual waste “black bag” waste stream;
- you should agree this with your waste collector before changing current practices;
- the external packaging of test kits can be recycled, however, waste from LFD testing (swabs, cartridges, devices) should not be placed in recycling; and
- any waste produced should not be disposed of in the clinical waste (orange bag) stream.

Funding

Funding is available for providers and employees undertaking testing

The Scottish Government is providing funding to enable financial support for social care providers for costs incurred as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidance sets out “*additional costs that may be incurred by social care providers as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic*” that can be and how to reclaim these. These arrangements will remain in place until 31 March 2022. In relation to costs associated with testing, this includes both staffing and non-staffing costs, for example:

- *Increased overtime or staffing for COVID-19 testing, for example staff time to carry out testing in care homes.”*
- *“Non staffing-related COVID-19 testing costs, for example costs associated with creating space to carry out testing safely and effectively, e.g. reuse of space, or additional cleaning or additional IPC measures necessary for testing, in line with Public Health guidance.*
- *“Costs associated with the private purchase of COVID-19 test kits will **not** be able to be reimbursed. Test kits will be provided at no cost to providers under existing arrangements for staff testing and under the testing expansion arrangements announced by the Cabinet Secretary on the 25 November 2020.”*

Providers are encouraged to consider the guidance for financial support for social care providers during COVID-19 in full, and contact their commissioning authority if they require further advice.

For more information see: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): financial support arrangements for social care providers - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2020/11/20201125_coronavirus_covid-19_financial_support_arrangements_for_social_care_providers.pdf).

Other strategies for keeping people care homes safe

We strongly recommend that larger homes subdivide into smaller units (ideally as small as is possible to support independent off duties). These separate sealed units should have doors that prevent movement of staff between units. They should have separate stock of PPE and their own entrances and exits where possible. Staff working in one of these smaller units should bubble even when off duty. i.e. Staff from one unit should NOT car share, share breaks or socialise with staff from another unit, or move between units. It is also worth making sure that all IPC and PPE training is up to date and that staff know how to comply with donning and

doffing of PPE and appropriate hand sterilising stations and adequate supplies of PPE are available throughout the home.

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