

Waste Management Guidance for Care Homes - Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing Waste

Version	Date	Update
V1.0	14 th Dec 2020	First version of the guidance
V1.1	18 th Dec 2020	Updated to include further advice on waste disposal, type of bags and liaison with waste contractor
V 1.3	8 Jan 2021	Updated summary on storage of waste on page 1
V1.3	25 Jan 2021	Updated details for SEPA contact and where to get more information page 1.
V1.4	12 April 2021	New SEPA advice – tests can go in residual waste /“black bag” waste stream

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 LFD testing kits should, in agreement with your waste contractor, be recycled.
- the LFD test itself (swab, cartridge/device) is not recyclable and should be disposed of in your residual (‘black bag’) waste bin.
- any waste produced should not be disposed of in the clinical waste (orange bag) stream.
- any disposable equipment such as face coverings, gloves, or aprons worn during the LFD testing process, either by those undertaking the test or those supervising others taking LFD tests, should also be disposed of in your residual (‘black bag’) waste bins.