



Sector Update - 12 April 2021 - LFD Bulk upload, logging of LFD results, Helpline changes and new SEPA waste advice

Bulk Uploads for Lateral Flow Device tests on the Covid testing and registration system

Please be aware that there is unfortunately an ongoing technical issue with the bulk upload feature on Covid testing and registration system for both LFD and PCR tests. NSS have confirmed that this feature remains offline temporarily, and they will continue to provide regular updates on progress until the issue is resolved. Individual users can also continue to upload their results either through the submission form or by logging into the portal. We continue to work with the developers of the huddle tool and NSS to surface in the huddle tool all available LFD results reported on the COVID testing portal.

Logging of LFD results

It has come to our attention that some care at home services across Scotland have been registering their lateral flow testing kits via the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) PCR portal. However these should be registered via the National Services Scotland (NSS) portal at the following link: [Welcome - COVID Testing Portal \(service-now.com\)](https://www.service-now.com/welcome-covid-testing-portal).

We will get in touch with the care at home services affected directly but thought it would be useful to issue a reminder to all social care sectors who use LFD tests. Both positive and negative results should be recorded via this portal as it is important we understand the number of kits been used but also the prevalence (positive) rate in the sector. Please also be aware that NSS in response to feedback have set up user accounts so people only need to register once rather than each time they log results.

Changes to the name and hours of the Testing helpline

The Testing Helpline (0800 008 6587) has been renamed the Scottish Covid Testing Support Helpline. When you call it you will now have options to choose - press 1 for Adult Social Care. The testing helpline number operational hours have now changed to 7 days a week 9am – 5pm (no longer 8-8pm).

Waste from LFD testing – updated SEPA advice

SEPA have updated their guidance on how to manage waste from LFD testing in care homes and it is available at: [SEPA Section heading](#). The main change is that waste from LFD tests in the care home setting can now be placed in the **residual waste “black bag” waste stream**. You should agree this with your waste collector before doing so. Any waste produced should not be disposed of in the clinical waste (orange bag) stream. There is an FAQ document from SEPA and Public Health Scotland available: [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.