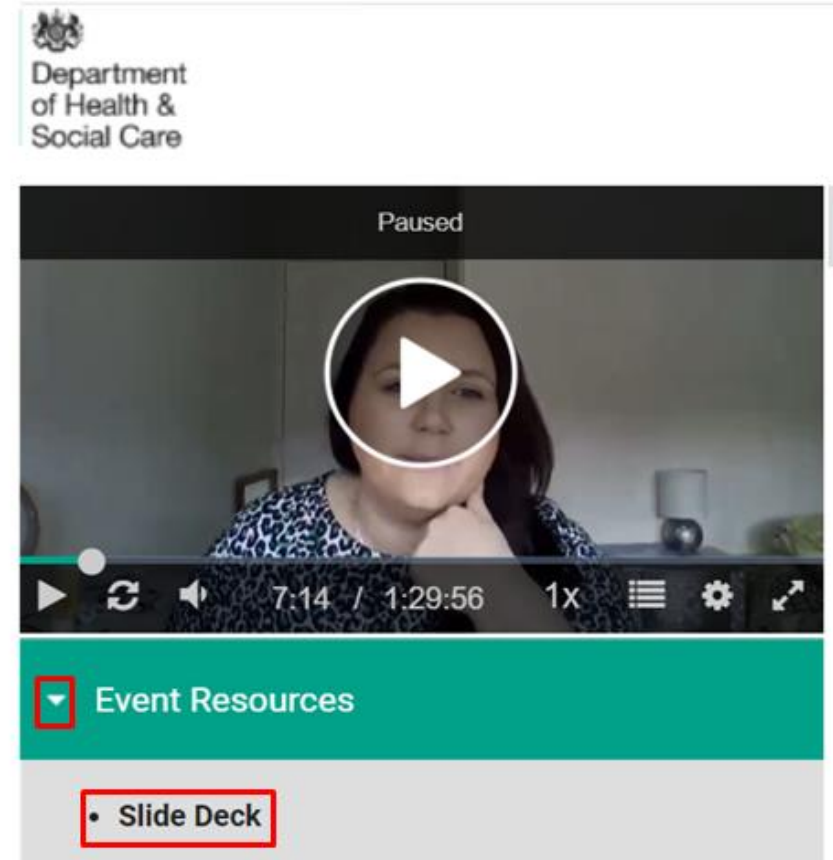# Adult Social Care

Introduction of Daily Rapid Lateral Flow Testing to All Adult Social Care Settings

Webinar Information

- Use Google Chrome browser if buffering.

- The webinar is recorded and can be watched again.

- Use the Q&A function to ask questions.

- Download slides by clicking on 'Event Resources'.

Overview

This webinar will focus on the changes coming in by 16 February meaning all asymptomatic adult social care staff testing will move to pre-shift lateral flow tests with the removal of PCR. This impacts all staff across ASC including staff in care homes, homecare, extra care and supported living, day care centres, and all others.

- Key updates to policy testing for all of Adult Social Care
  - Removal of asymptomatic PCR testing
  - Clinical Reasoning

- Benefits of increased testing (LFT) and why testing is important

- Rapid Lateral Flow Testing
  - How to order and report Rapid Lateral Flow Tests
  - The importance of reporting your results

- Funding and Resources

- Q&A

Key Updates

The key changes are:

By the 16 February, we are introducing pre-shift lateral flow tests for all staff in adult social care to keep those providing and receiving care safe. This will replace regular asymptomatic PCR testing for all staff across adult social care. Therefore the new testing cadence will be:-

- Daily lateral flow tests for staff in all adult social care settings.

- Removal of asymptomatic staff PCR testing.

- PCR tests will remain available for symptomatic staff and where applicable, there will be no change to regular asymptomatic monthly resident testing or outbreak testing. We will continue to keep our testing regimes under review to ensure they are in line with the latest evidence and proportionate to the level of risk.

This change has been made on the basis of clinical advice that following this regime will provide better protection than current testing regimes across adult social care and we will go into more detail about this in the coming slides.

Why Testing is Important

Regular testing offers your agency critical benefits in the fight against coronavirus. These include:

- Identifying non-symptomatic staff without symptoms who currently have coronavirus so they are able to self-isolate to prevent and control the spread of the virus

- Protecting those receiving care - preventing infection being passed to them by staff, care recipients, and visitors who are confirmed positive. This is particularly necessary as restrictions in wider society are eased.

- It is vitally important that staff test regardless of whether they have had the vaccine or not, and that even if staff have received a negative result, staff continue to follow all relevant Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures such as hand hygiene, PPE and having good ventilation where possible.

Benefits and Clinical Rationale

This slide builds on the information you will have received in the letter from Claire Armstrong, Director of Adult Social Care Delivery and Covid-19 response, DHSC.

Introducing daily pre-shift LFTs for staff will help to rapidly identify and isolate people who are at a high likelihood of spreading the virus, helping to break the chain of transmission, prevent hospitalisations and save lives. This is supported by evidence that shows:

- Lateral flow tests are highly effective at identifying asymptomatic people with high viral loads who are most infectious, particularly at high prevalence.

- For every 10,000 lateral flow tests carried out, there are likely to be fewer than 3 false positive results meaning positive lateral flow tests can be relied upon to isolate individuals (NHS Test and Trace analysis).

- Taken together with the rapid turnaround times, an increase to daily pre-shift lateral flow tests will increase protections in care settings. This will help identify and isolate positive cases quicker rather than waiting for PCR results to return from the lab.

- Daily pre-shift lateral flow tests for staff will help to continuously and rapidly identify and isolate people who are a high likelihood of spreading the virus, helping to break the chain of transmission, prevent hospitalisations, and save lives. It is vital that staff therefore continue the efforts they have taken across the pandemic, continuing to test to keep themselves and those they care for safe.

- While PCRs help to identify cases including those with lower viral loads, these individuals are likely to be less infectious, and the frequency of lateral flow testing will help to ensure cases can be detected quickly across the week.
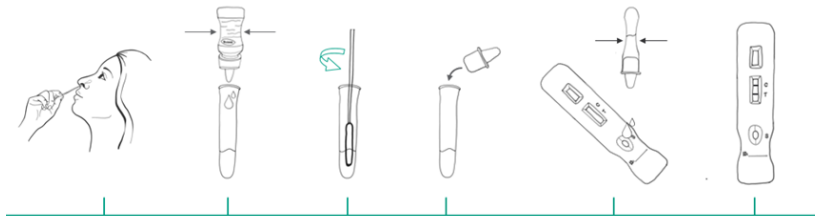
Overview of LFT Testing Journey

RECEIVE KITS

You will receive an email notification when the kits are shipped.

PLAN FOR TESTING

Consider how you will distribute tests to all staff. Ensure staff members understand the testing process and guidance for their test type.

On the testing day…

CONDUCT TESTING

ANALYSE TEST SAMPLES

Processing Operative analyses and interprets results **between 15 and 30 minutes**. The test kit and result is reported on the online registration form.

RESULT NOTIFICATION & FOLLOW UP

Report the result, whether it's positive, negative or void. If positive, the individual needs to isolate immediately.

Ordering Journey

To place an order you will need:

- Unique Organisation Number (UON)*

- Total number of residents and whether they are displaying coronavirus symptoms

- Total number of staff, including agency staff, and whether they are displaying coronavirus symptoms

- Their contact details

*If you don't know your UON, care homes and home care managers can use the UON lookup tool, or any organisation manager can call 119

Ordering Your Test Kits

You order your test kits by visiting the following website: https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/

Ordering Your Test Kits cont.

- These tests can be ordered every 21 days

- Please only order kits if you need them – if you still have rapid lateral flow tests left over from previous orders there is no need to order until you require additional kits

- Please note – this is an example screenshot and your screen may look different depending on what type of organisation you work for

How to Report Results

There are two ways to report results:

Individuals Reporting Results

- Individuals can report their own results on the online reporting portal: https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

- To make this quicker, individuals can create user accounts which will reduce the time it takes to report each test.

- All tests should be reported using an organisation's UON in order to connect the test to the care provider.

- If an individual does not have access to the internet, they can call 119 to report a result.

Multiple Upload Spreadsheet

- Organisations can upload their testing data in bulk using this spreadsheet. This can be used both to register PCR results and to report LFT results.

- For guidance on how to use our multiple upload portal and to download the record keeping spreadsheet, please click here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/organisation-testing-registration-record-of-users/unique-organisation-number-uon-and-multiple-registration-guidance

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Why it's Important to Report all Test Results

- Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

- Linking test results to your organisation enables public health teams to better support us to reduce the transmission of coronavirus and prevent outbreaks.

- If people only report a positive result, case levels look higher than they really are. So, reporting negative and void results ensures NHS Test and Trace information stays accurate.

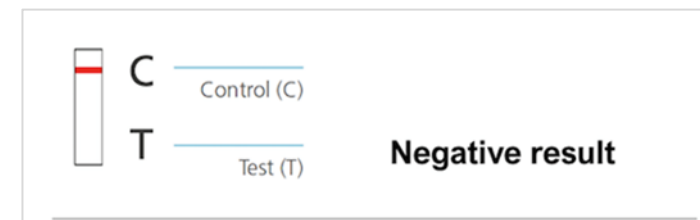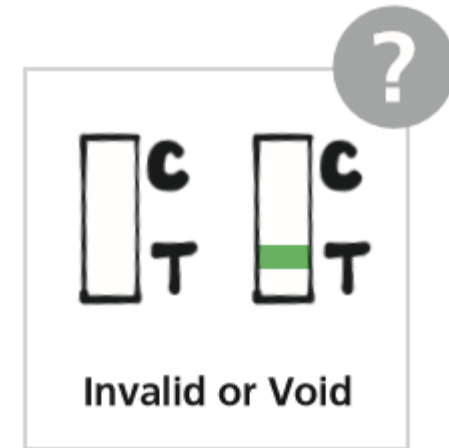**Remember: tests are only completed when their result has been reported**

What do to with Results

Guidance for a void/ invalid result

- The staff member will need to **re-test using another rapid lateral flow test** to receive a conclusive result
- If they have another void from within the same batch, they should try another box if possible
- If that is also void, they can keep working and take a rapid lateral flow test the following day

Invalid or Void

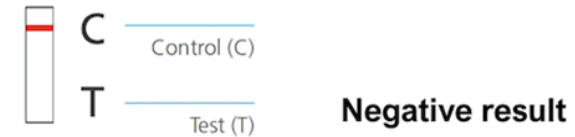**Guidance for a negative result**

- The staff member can continue working but should continue to follow all relevant Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures such as hand hygiene, PPE and having good ventilation where possible

Control (C)
Test (T)
Negative result

What do to with Results

Guidance for a positive result

- If a staff member receives a positive LFT or PCR test result, they must self-isolate immediately for 10 days.
- From day 5, they can take an LFT to see if they are still testing positive
- If a staff member gets two negative test results in a row taken 24 hours apart, they can leave isolation early from day 6. This is after 5 full days of isolation.
- There may be additional considerations about whether they should return to work at this point. Full guidance on this can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings

Funding

Funding is in place to help support staff costs associated with conducting testing

- The Infection Control and Testing Fund (ICTF) was extended in September till March 2022, providing funding for reasonable administrative costs associated with organising and recording the outcomes of COVID-19 tests.

- Full conditions are set out in the guidance detailing what this funding can be spent on.

- Providers should contact their local authority if they need additional funding.

Useful Links to Guidance and Online Portals

- Domiciliary Care guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for homecare workers: information for agencies - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- Extra Care and Supported Living guidance: Testing service for extra care and supported living settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- Care home guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in adult care homes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- Adult day care centres guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-adult-day-care-centre-workers

- Testing guidance for all other staff in ASC: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-personal-assistants

- Management of staff and residents guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings

- Guidance on testing people who lack mental capacity: The Mental Capacity Act (2005) (MCA) and deprivation of liberty safeguards (DoLS) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic: additional guidance

- Test kit ordering portal: Apply for coronavirus test kits - GOV.UK (test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk)

- Registration portal: Register test kits for your organisation - GOV.UK (coronavirus-testing-for-organisations.service.gov.uk)

These links will be updated as soon as possible to reflect these changes

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Q&A