**Rapid Swab Testing (Lateral Flow) for Clinical Workforce**

**Staff FAQs**

**FAQS** [**relevant to Managers**](#ManagerFAQS) **are available at the end of this document.**

* **Who will be eligible for the tests?**

Due to the number of kits being supplied, initially, we are prioritising the test for all front line patient-facing staff, whether they are substantive, temporary, bank or students. We understand that sufficient volumes of the lateral flow devices will be sent to us and other NHS organisations to enable all staff to be given the test asap.

* **How have you selected who counts as ‘front line staff’?**

This has been identified through ESR and is the same process used to identify front line staff for flu vaccinations.

* **Is the test mandatory or voluntary?**

Tests are voluntary, although given the importance of keeping our patients and staff safe we would strongly encourage patient facing staff to take part.

* **How often do I test myself?**

**You will need to test yourself twice a week, every three to four days, to fit your shift pattern – for example, every Monday and Thursday/Wednesday and Sunday, in sufficient time before you come in work for your shift in order to allow any absence to be reported in a timely manner. Your result should be ready 30 minutes after taking your test.**

* **I work irregular shift patterns that means I am in and out with perhaps one day off at a time in a particular week. Is it better to evenly space the test throughout the week?**

The advice is to test twice a week at a time that fits with your shift pattern, at 3-4 day intervals if possible.  You should only be testing on days when you are coming into work.

* **How many tests will I get?**

The testing kits will arrive in boxes containing the following:

* 25 foil pouches containing the test cartridge and a desiccant
* Two vials of 6 mls buffer solution
* 25 Extraction tubes and 25 tube caps
* 25 sterilised swabs for sample collection
* Instructions for use of the device (IFU)
* There is enough for a 12 weeks supply.
* **Do I have to report my results?**

**Yes you do – both negative and positive. Whilst taking the test is voluntary, where it is conducted there is a statutory requirement to report the results. If the result is invalid, repeat the test with a new test. The test can be repeated immediately. If the second test is invalid, call the Lateral Testing helpdesk for further advice.**

* **How do I report the results?**

You will need to document and provide the results using the reporting link sent to you via email. <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/L7VX8O/>

* **What if I don’t have access to a computer/phone/IT?**

Contact the Lateral Flow Test Helpdesk via telephone on: 0113 85 55957

* **Do I follow the instructions in the box or the attachment sent to me in the email?**

Please ignore the manufacturer instructions inside the box, as they say to swab mouth and nose. Please refer to the instruction document sent to you in the email, or by watching the [HEE Video](https://learninghub.nhs.uk/self-swab). Then record your results via the email link.

* **What if I can’t pick my tests up in on the day specified in the email?**

We recommend that you collect this whilst you are on shift – you DO NOT need to make arrangements outside of your working time to collect one.

* **What if I work at one of our Regional sites? (e.g Salford, Sunderland)**

Please complete the consent form as instructed on the email. You will be contacted by the Lateral Testing team with details of delivery of your kits. If you have not been contacted, please get in touch with the helpdesk.

* **What if I’m a member of frontline staff, but am currently working from home or shielding?**

The tests should only be taken by patient-facing front line staff who are currently working in their patient-facing roles.

* **What if I’ve already tested positive for COVID-19?**

A staff member who tested positive would recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken.

* **What happens if I get a positive result?**

You should inform your line manager of a positive result straight away, and update the results on the link <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/L7VX8O/> we have sent you so that we can talk to you about arranging a confirmatory PCR test. You and your household should isolate as set out in government guidance.

* **If my lateral flow is positive & my PCR is negative do I continue isolating?**

No, you can return to work if you do not have symptoms and the PCR test is negative.

* **What if I keep getting negative/invalid results?**

Contact the Lateral Flow Test Helpdesk by telephone: 0113 85 55957 or email: [lateral.testing@nhs.net](mailto:lateral.testing@nhs.net)

* **What if I have COVID-19 symptoms, but test negative?**

If your result is inconclusive, you will be asked to perform the test again immediately using another test kit. If that is also inconclusive please contact the Infection Prevention Team.

* **If I test positive, what then happens with this testing?**

If your PCR test is positive you do not need to self-test using the lateral flow device for 90 days from the date you tested positive.

* **What should I do with the used tests?**

You can safely dispose of the test items in your normal household waste but should pour any residual buffer solution away first.

* **Is it compulsory that I do my twice-weekly tests?**

No, it is not compulsory but it is strongly advised that you participate to help protect yourself, your family and your patients.

* **Can I use these tests on my family & friends?**

No – these are for staff only. Family & friends should access tests in the normal way using the Government portal.

* **Can these tests be used for patients?**

These test kits will be allocated to staff and should not be used on patients. PCR tests should continue to be used for patients.

* **I have a question about the lateral flow test process that I cannot find the answer for.**

Your local Infection Control Nurse or Peer to Peer Vaccinator will be able to support staff in your local area with any questions or concerns you might have. In addition there is a helpdesk that has been set up to help answer any questions – [**lateral.testing@nhs.net**](mailto:lateral.testing@nhs.net)0113 85 55957

**Manager FAQs**

* **A member of my team had a positive Lateral Flow Test, What do I need to do?**

Please log the positive result on Healthroster using the **Isolate Lateral – Working / Not Working codes.** The individual will need to isolate until they receive their results from the PCR test.

* **My team member has had a positive PCR Test result, what do I need to do?**

You need to update Healthroster to show the individual as COVID positive and support them to isolate for 10 days as per the guidance.

* **My team member has had a negative PCR Test result, what do I need to do?**

If the individual is unwell, then you need to update Healthroster to show them as off sick or self-isolating and support them in the usual way. If they are not symptomatic, the individual can return to work and Healthroster should reflect the change.