



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Visitor Testing in Care Homes and Hospices

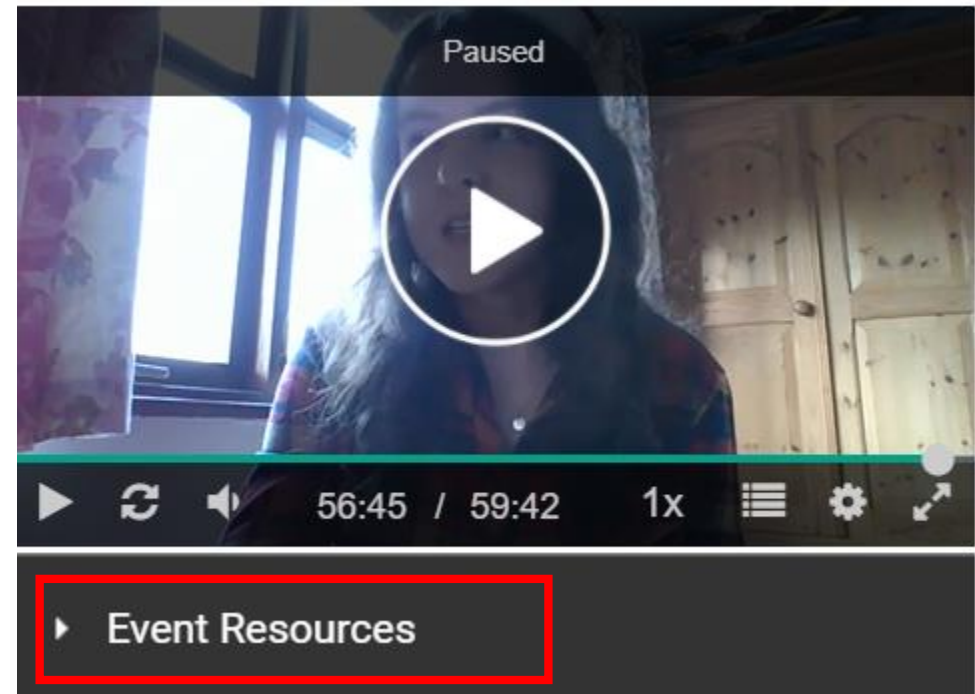
Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)

Tranche 2 webinar

December 2020

Things to note

- If you are having any sound or video issues, please watch this webinar using Google Chrome
- If your internet is causing the video to buffer, you can re-watch the recording via the same link afterwards
- The slides can be downloaded from the Event Resources link under the video
- Please ask any questions using the Q&A function
- Please also complete our survey at the end of the webinar



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Overview
3. Pilot
4. Testing Technology, Risk Mitigation & Test Accuracy
5. What's involved in the end to end LFD testing process



**Delivery of
your kits**



Preparation



Testing visitors



Sample analysis



Results analysis



Post-test action

6. Preparing your home and visitors
7. Contacts and Q&A



Overview

Our Objectives

The key objective of this effort is to **ensure the ongoing safety of the entire care home and hospice community** whilst enabling residents to see their loved ones.

We also want to understand how access to testing can support the wellbeing of residents alongside wider IPC measures and feed into a holistic risk-based approach to visiting.

Delivery Plan

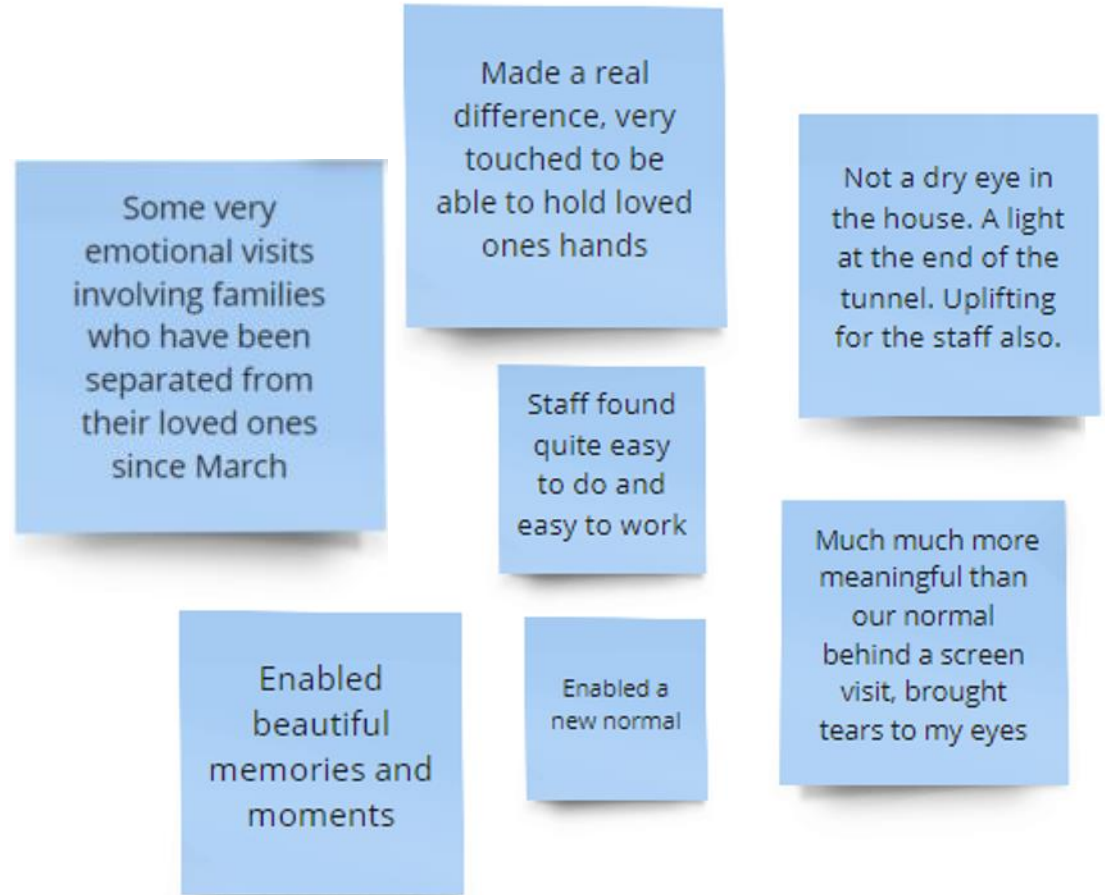
Your home will have access to **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits** to provide rapid testing of visitors on arrival before a planned visit. You will also be provided with a set of kits, to be used in the case that a visitor tests positive with an LFD device.



Pilot

Pilot Feedback

- From 16th November we began a pilot with 20 homes across Cornwall, Devon and Hampshire
- Thus far our weekly evaluations and continuous user feedback has shown extremely positive results, including positive wellbeing of residents, concordance of tests and positive feedback from the homes
- Quality Assurance concordance swabbing process identified 100% concordance on 155 tests taken
- Staff found online training straightforward to follow and the testing process quick to pick up having PCR testing experience
- They stressed the need to prepare, the time it takes to support visitors with registration, space constraints and workforce requirements
- Uplifting experience for residents, visitors and staff
- There were no outbreaks in any pilot homes

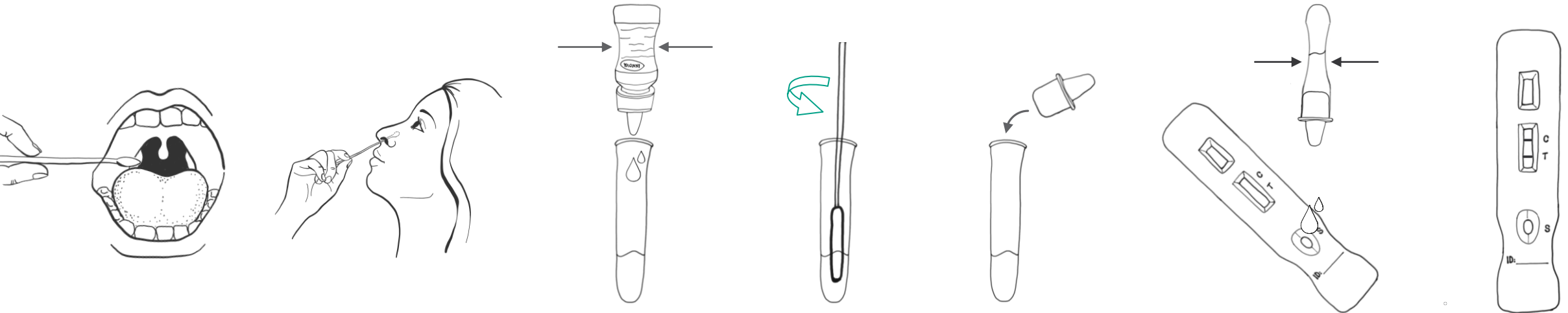


Testing Technology

Lateral Flow Antigen testing involves processing a **throat and nasal swab sample** with an extraction fluid and a Lateral Flow Device (LFD).

The LFD detects a COVID-19 antigen that is produced when a person is infectious with COVID-19. If this antigen is present, then a coloured strip on the LFD will appear to show a positive result within **20 – 30 minutes**.

There are several Lateral Flow Device products available, but for this expansion we will be providing you with **Innova SARS-CoV-2** Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test Kits. It reduces risk on top of the other IPC measures, as part of an overall approach to managing risk of transmission.



Risk Mitigation

- Testing is **one way** of minimising the risk of visiting a care home alongside other IPC measures, such as PPE. It reduces risk on top of the other IPC measures, **as part of an overall approach to managing risk of transmission**
- If a visitor has a negative test, is wearing full and appropriate PPE and following other infection control measures then it may be possible for visitors to have physical contact with their loved one such as providing personal care and holding hands
- We are constantly assessing risks involved in care home visiting, and although we accept that physical contact is important, **it is advised that this is kept to a minimum** for the benefit of both the resident and the visitor



Test Accuracy

- Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) find **at least** half of the cases that PCR testing detect, and about three-quarters of those who have very high amounts of virus present when the individual was tested. They are helpful in detecting cases that would not be detected by other testing strategies in use routinely
- **Lateral flow testing is not a silver bullet:** it should be **used alongside** PPE and other IPC measures and **not** as a way of relaxing their use
- LFDs can rarely give an inaccurate positive result and individuals who test positive should have a PCR test to confirm. However, if an individual tests positive, they should self-isolate immediately and follow national guidance



Support

Support

This webinar is part of a package of guidance and available training which is now available online

This includes:

- Care home testing guidance pack
- Guidance pack for visitors
- Letter to be provided to visitors ahead of their visit

These can all be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-lateral-flow-testing-of-visitors-in-care-homes>

Webinar

This webinar can be watched again at any time by using the same link

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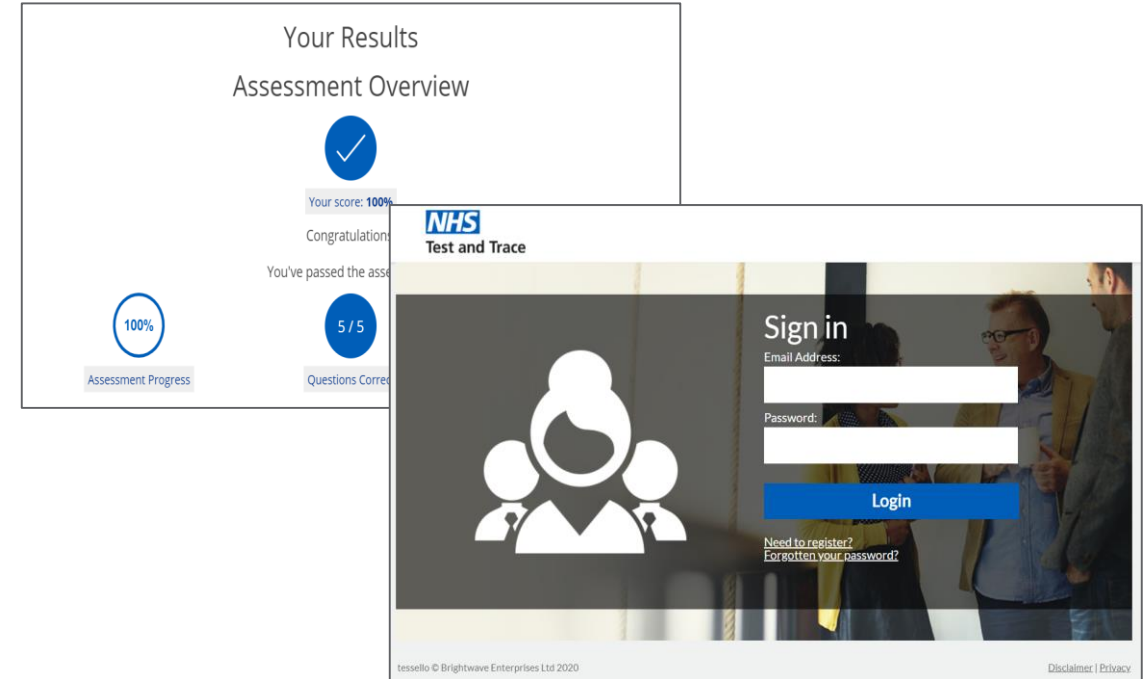


Training

Training

We are also providing full training on Lateral Flow Device testing for care home and hospice staff members via the NHS Online Training Portal

This training includes a video demonstration of the full testing process, and a competency assessment, and can be completed any time prior to beginning testing. **Some of the information and links are more generalised for all users of LFD tests in different setting so please follow our detailed Care Home and Hospice specific guidance carefully.**



Link: <https://go.tessello.co.uk/TestDeviceTraining/>
Token: 3wkcVi4UTX




Training

Training Module

There are a number of training modules on the training portal.


The '**LFD Results Recording Training**' module has a different results logging process – Please **follow our Care Home and Hospice specific guidance** for recording results at:
<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Test Device Training




LFD Process Training

Incomplete




LFD Results Recording Training

Incomplete




Infection Prevention and Control, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Not Started




How to give guidance on self swabbing

Incomplete



Train the trainer: LFD Process

Incomplete



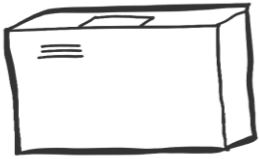
Resources

Completed ✓



Delivery of your test kits

Supplementary test kits



CARTON

Supplementary test kits for confirmatory PCR

LFD test kits*



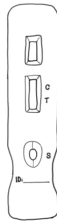
SWAB

Inside a sealed wrapper



EXTRACTION SOLUTION

Used to prepare the swab before results analysis



LFD CARTRIDGE

Where the sample is analysed



EXTRACTION TUBE

Where the swab is processed

Supplementing kit

delivered as a single box



BARCODES

Used to track the individual tests



NOT provided:

- Managed device
- Test tube rack
- Timer
- Markers

*kits to be stored at room temperature and should be kept separate from other test kits to differentiate



A visitor is defined as any relative or friend wishing to visit a resident. Kits are available for any visitor when they arrive for their visit.



All visiting professionals, including non NHS staff should be tested prior to entry unless they are already part of a separate regular testing regime, such as NHS workers and CQC inspectors.



Testing Cadence for care homes

How often can we do this testing?

- Sufficient quantities of LFDs have been provided to test **2 visitors per resident, twice a week** – however, this is at the care home's discretion and dependent on the number of visits a care home can accommodate
- Visitor numbers should be limited to a **maximum of 2 constant visitors wherever possible**
- This, for example, means the same family member visiting each time to limit the number of different individuals coming into contact
- This is in order to limit the overall number of visitors to the care home and/or to the individual, and the consequent risk of disease transmission from multiple different routes
- Visitors need to be tested on entry **every time they visit the care home**, regardless of the date of their previous visit



Testing Cadence for hospices

How often can we do this testing?

- Sufficient quantities of LFDs have been provided to test :
- **Four visitors per patient, twice a week** – however, this is at the hospice's discretion and dependent on the number of visits a hospice can accommodate
- **Two Visiting professionals per patient a week** – such as faith leaders and specialists visiting the hospice
- **Non clinical staff** who are not taking part in weekly PCR testing – if any non clinical staff are not
- Visitors need to be tested on entry **every time they visit the hospice**, regardless of the date of their previous visit



You can upload your test results using our new online form which is now live at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>



The end-to-end testing process

Overview of LFD Testing Journey

This six stage process will help you setup and manage testing individuals who are scheduled to visit residents in your care home.

1

RECEIVE KITS

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

2

PLAN FOR TESTING

Staff members read through guidance and complete online training. Inform visitors of testing and guidance expectations. Schedule visits as usual.

On the testing day...

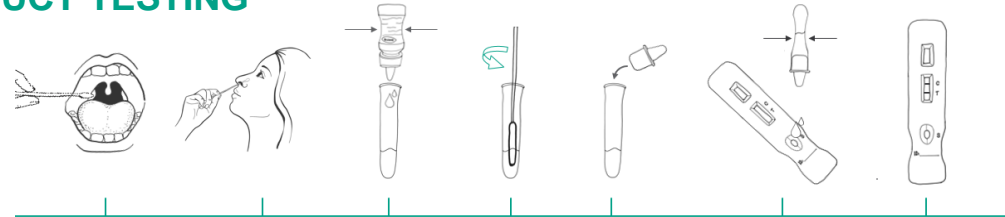
3

PREPARE TESTING AREA

Set-up testing area at care home, including a check-in area and place to conduct testing and await results.

4

CONDUCT TESTING



5

ANALYSE TEST SAMPLES

Processing Operative analyses and interprets results. The test kit and result is registered on the online registration form.

6

RESULT NOTIFICATION & FOLLOW UP

Register the result on the online registration form. **If positive, the visitor needs to take and register a confirmatory PCR test on site. Then instruct them to isolate immediately and return home.**



DAY OF TESTING WALK THROUGH

VISITORS ARRIVAL

1

VISITOR ENTERS DESIGNATED ENTRANCE:

As each visitor enters they are provided with PPE, checked in against the visitors list, asked to consent to testing and confirm they do not have symptoms.

Each visitor is issued with **copies of their unique barcode**



2

VISITOR MOVES TO TESTING AREA:

The visitor moves to the testing area and **hands one copy of the barcode to the Processing Operative.**

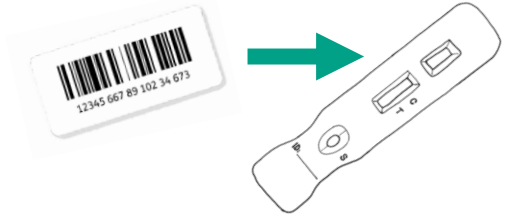
DAY OF TESTING WALK THROUGH

SAMPLE COLLECTION

3

TEST KIT PREPARATION:

The Processing Operative attaches the visitor's barcode to the back of the LFD cartridge. The Operative prepares other parts of the test kit including the extraction tube and extraction solution to process individual samples.



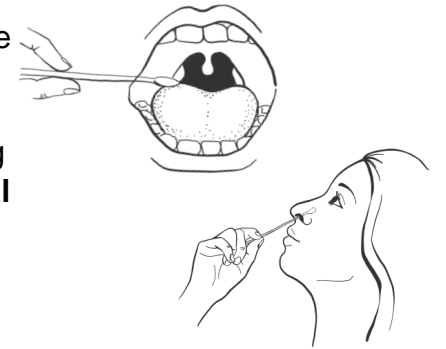
The Processing Operative then hands the visitor the packaged swab.

4

VISITOR SELF-SWABS:

The visitor un-packages the swab and **self-administers** the swab sample.

The visitor should hold their used swab until the Processing Operative is ready to process their test sample. **It is critical that no one touches the end of the swab.**



5

TEST SAMPLE PREPARATION:

The Processing Operative will now analyse the visitor's test sample.

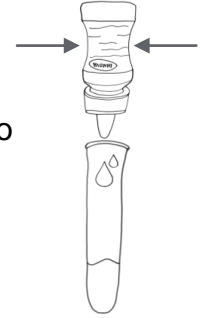
DAY OF TESTING WALK THROUGH

SAMPLE ANALYSIS

6

EXTRACTION PREPARATION:

The Processing Operative adds 6 drops of the extraction solution to the extraction tube (without touching the edge of the tube).



7

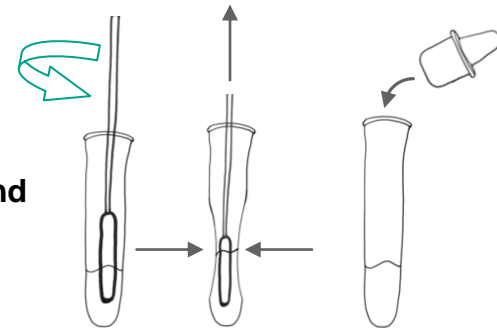
SWAB HANDOVER:

The Processing Operative then takes the used swab from the visitor. The visitor can move into the waiting area after they hand over the swab.

8

SWAB PROCESSING AND EXTRACTION:

The **swab is inserted head-first into the extraction tube**. Hold and press the swab head against the wall of the tube while rotating for about **10 seconds**. **Squeeze the lower end of the tube** while removing the swab in order to remove as much liquid as possible from the swab.

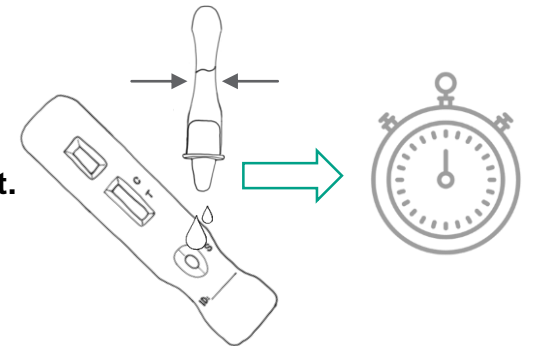


Once removed, dispose of the swab into a healthcare waste bin and install the nozzle cap onto the extraction tube.

9

LFD CARTRIDGE PROCESSING:

Squeeze **2 drops of the solution** into the sample well of the LFD cartridge and **record the time of test**.



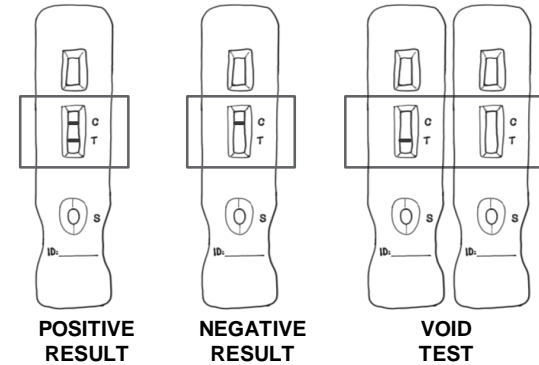
DAY OF TESTING WALK THROUGH

RESULTS ANALYSIS

10

RESULTS INTERPRETATION:

The results are interpreted by examining the presence of coloured lines on the LFD **after 30 minutes only**.



11

MARKING RESULTS:

The test is then marked by a **permanent marker**.

12

REGISTER RESULTS:

The test barcode is registered and the result is recorded on the online form. **All results must be registered, whether positive or negative**

13

DISPOSE OF THE TEST

The test can be disposed of in healthcare waste.

Visitor Registration and Results Logging

- Once the result is determined, the visitor's test kit needs to be registered online using a self-test registration form
- The online form links the visitor to their test barcode and test result
- Visitors can complete this form using their own mobile phone or a mobile device provided by the home. A member of staff can help if the visitor cannot complete it themselves
- The form will ask for the individual's personal details, barcode of the LFD, and whether the result was positive, negative or void
- Notifications will be sent to the visitors via SMS or e-mail

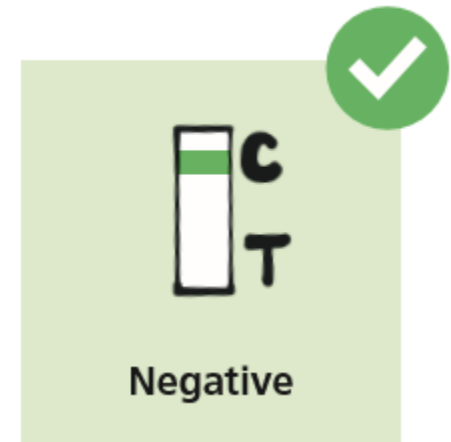
<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

The image shows a screenshot of the GOV.UK website for reporting a COVID-19 self-test result. The page is titled 'Report a COVID-19 self-test result' and includes a search bar at the top. The main content area is divided into sections: 'Use this service to:', 'Report the result:', 'Before you start', 'Report by phone', 'How reporting self-test results helps', 'Self-isolation', and 'How we use your data'. The 'Report the result:' section has a 'Start now' button. The 'Before you start' section lists requirements: a barcode or ID number and a mobile phone. The 'Report by phone' section mentions using the phone number from the kit's instructions. The 'How reporting self-test results helps' section lists benefits like reducing infection rates and protecting people at higher risk. The 'Self-isolation' section mentions that users and their households may need to self-isolate depending on the result. The 'How we use your data' section mentions finding out how data is used. On the right side, there is a smaller, partially visible form titled 'Report your COVID-19 test result' which includes a 'Back' button, a 'What's the result?' section with radio buttons for 'Positive', 'Negative', and 'Invalid', and a 'Continue' button.



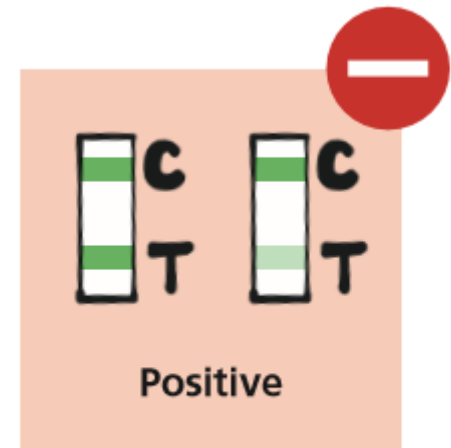
What if a test comes back negative?

- The visitor(s) can continue with the visit **if other IPC measures are adhered to**
- The visitor should only enter **designated parts of the care home** and **should wear appropriate PPE** including a face mask, gloves, apron and follow IPC measures in line with the care home and national policy
- **If the above is followed, a more meaningful visit is allowed.** For example, providing personal care and holding hands
- We are constantly assessing risks involved in care home visiting, and although we accept that physical contact is important, it is advised that this is kept to a minimum for the benefit of both the resident and the visitor
- The length of visit and the area where the visit takes place are at the care home's discretion



What if a test comes back positive?

- The visit **cannot go ahead** if the visitor tests positive
- A positive LFD test result requires a confirmatory PCR test be taken on site and the PCR test returned
- If the additional PCR kits came with a Royal Mail label, this can be posted in a priority post box. If not, please ring 119 to book a same day courier
- The visitor should register their test on-site using the “**testing at home**” registration, not as part of an organisation (instructions provided in the kits)
- The visitor should **immediately return home**, avoiding public transport and isolate to wait for their PCR test result
- If PCR test result is positive, the visitor must isolate for 10 days



FAQs about positive results

Does this constitute a positive / outbreak in the home?

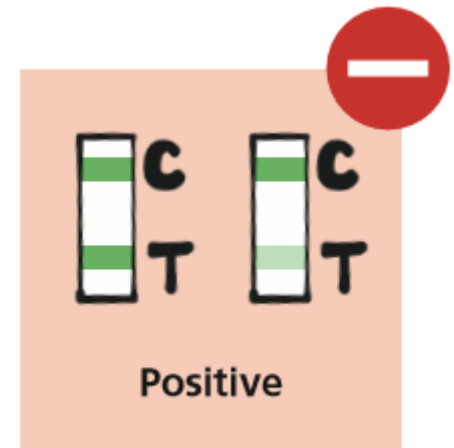
This positive does not constitute a positive in the care home or count towards an outbreak, and the staff member does not have to isolate and other visits can continue

Do we give the positive LFD to the courier?

No – only the confirmatory PCR kit needs to be given to the courier. The positive LFD can be disposed of as healthcare waste

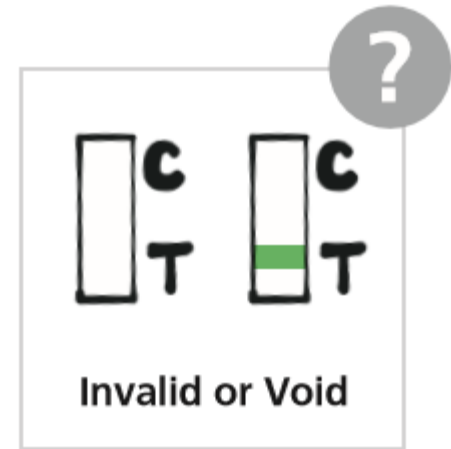
When can the visitor take an LFD again?

The visitor can return to the care home once their isolation period is over - they do not have to wait 90 days as per guidance with a PCR test



What if a test comes back invalid?

- The visitor will need to **re-test using a spare LFD kit** to receive a conclusive result
- If the re-test comes back as invalid, **we recommend that you do not allow the visitor to complete the visit**
- Outdoor and screened visits can be made available to visitors who have tested invalid twice, similar to someone who has not been tested



Quality Assurance Process

- Care homes are responsible for **internal quality assurance**
- This may include, for example:
 - Staff competency and training checks
 - Monitoring of void/invalid rates
 - Operational checklists
 - Performance of confirmatory PCR tests
- We are also implementing an ongoing evaluation framework which will be undertaken at a sample of care homes once testing has been established
- At this time you do not need to take any further action as more information will be provided

Key Points

- Visitors **swab and register** their result themselves
- A positive LFD test and confirmatory PCR **does not count** as a positive or an outbreak in the care home
- The recommendation is for **two visitors twice a week per resident**, ideally the same two visitors if possible
- You will receive your estimated delivery date via email
- These slides can be downloaded from the **Event Resources** section



Preparing your home and visitors

Preparation is key to successful testing. You should **start to plan** for how you will conduct testing in your setting **using the checklist and guidance** we are providing to you



Considerations for your testing workflow

Make sure your facility is fully prepared

- ✓ **Testing area** – making sure there is a separate area for visitors to complete a self-assisted swab and wait on results, maintaining social distancing

You will need to set up a testing area away from the main part of the home, so a visitor does not interact with any other staff or resident prior to receiving their result. The testing area may be set up either indoors or outdoors and there must be a space where visitors can wait 30 minutes for the results, whilst remaining socially distant from all other staff and residents.

This could include visitors putting PPE on outside the home. If the visitor waits in their car, they would need to change their PPE before their visit.

- ✓ **Schedule** – making sure that you have your visiting schedule planned accordingly to take into account time for testing
- ✓ **Consent** – obtaining written consent from all visitors to be tested and share results in line with your normal policies and procedures. You can modify any current consent forms you have



Considerations for your testing workflow

Prepare for digital and reporting requirements

- ✓ **Set up devices to register results**
- ✓ Make sure the test kits and barcodes are prepared and kept separate



Staff training requirements



Training will be provided in the form of:

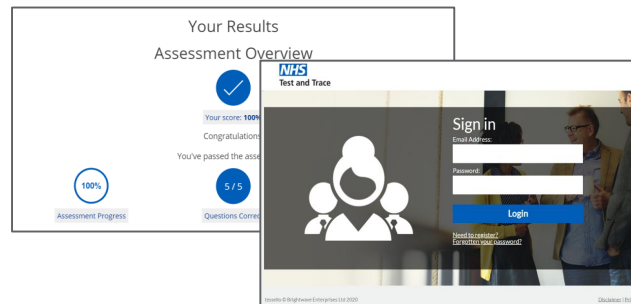
- ✓ **LFD Instructions**– homes to review before testing commences and use throughout
- ✓ **NHS training portal** – with instructional videos and assessment



Online Training Requirements

Each care home manager needs to ensure that testing staff have access to the training portal.

Once access is granted, all staff members are required to complete the online training and assessment.



Additional Considerations

Care home managers should share the guidance with testing staff and make sure the testing team is prepared for:

- Visitor scheduling and preparation
- Testing technique and quality control
- Test kit handling / packaging processes
- Recording results
- Infection and prevention control



Preparing your visitors

You will receive a letter to be shared with visitors before their scheduled visits.

What is expected of the visitor:



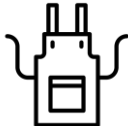


- **Sign visitor consent forms** for testing and sharing results
- **Wear appropriate PPE** during testing and visit
- **Follow all other infection control protocols** and safety requirements during visit
- **Register their result** using our online form
- **Complete and register a confirmatory PCR test** if their LFD test is positive

What is expected of the Care Home:

- **Share visitors letter** with the objectives and expectations for testing and visiting
- **Gain visitor consent** via appropriate forms
- **Provide appropriate PPE** and support with donning and doffing
- **Provide confirmatory PCR kits** (and complete on site) if the visitor tests positive with an LFD
- **Returning** of the confirmatory PCR kit via priority post box or courier



PPE requirements for staff and visitors

 Role (recommended)	 Disposable gloves	 Disposable apron	 Fluid-resistant surgical mask	 Eye protection (Goggle or visor)
Care Home Manager			✓	
Check-in / Registration Operative			✓	
Processing Operative	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitor	✓	✓	✓	

PPE should be changed if it is contaminated at any point or if the staff member completes a different task between testing
Each part of the additional PPE provided may arrive in separate boxes
For any issues regarding PPE, please contact the PPE portal customer service line on 0800 876 6802

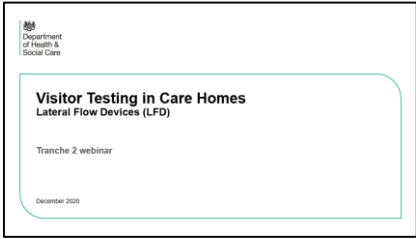


Key Points

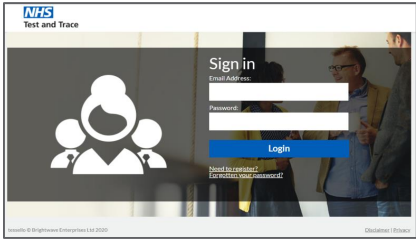
- Testing area needs to be away from staff and residents, **either indoors or outdoors**
- Visitors must wear **PPE during the whole testing process and their visit**
- This webinar and the slides can be accessed via the same link used to watch the webinar today



Support & Key Links



Webinar: This webinar will be available to re-watch via the same link used to access the webinar today. The slides are available for download by selecting Event Resources



Complete online training: If you have not received details via email, please use the below:

Link: <https://go.tessello.co.uk/TestDeviceTraining/>

Token: 3wkcVi4UTX

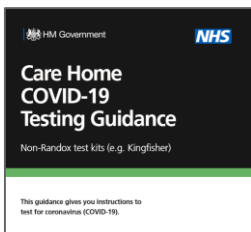


Coronavirus Testing Contact Centre: please call **119** (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or **0300 303 2713** (Scotland) if you have any questions or queries.

Lines are open from 7am –11pm daily



Select 1 in response to the following question: “If you are calling because you have an upcoming hospital procedure, or from an organisation who receives test kits directly from the national testing programme, press 1” to talk to the specialist team

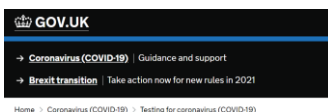


LFD testing guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-lateral-flow-testing-of-visitors-in-care-homes>

Visiting guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus>



Report a COVID-19 test result

Use this service to report your result to the NHS after using a coronavirus (COVID-19) lateral flow test kit.

A lateral flow test is a coronavirus test you do yourself. It shows you the result on a handheld device that comes with the test.

Report the result:

Registering the LFD result:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Registering the confirmatory PCR result:

<https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit>



Key FAQs

What do we do with the confirmatory PCR kit?

If the additional PCR kits came with a Royal Mail label, this can be posted in a priority post box. If not, please ring 119 to book a same day courier

Can we give out kits for visitors to take and test at home?

No, all testing must be done on the care home site, in the testing area

How do I order more LFD kits?

Replenishment advice will be provided via email in the coming weeks



Questions to address

Thank you for joining