

Care home testing update: Lateral Flow Device (LFDs) approval for self-test



This announcement is for care homes in England only.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests, are now approved for some staff to conduct self-test LFDs. **This only applies to care home staff and not to other settings in adult social care.**

This means that care home staff are now able to take and register their twice weekly LFD tests at home, before they arrive at the care home to start work.

CareTech's position is that this remains an exception to practice, rather than regular practice.

Exceptional circumstances may include:

- Where staff cannot attend work earlier to undertake the LFD test and this impacts upon care delivery.
- Where a positive LFD test on entry would provide severe logistical or replacement issues for the staff or the service. For example, there is only one night staff and no day staff would be able to stay longer in order to cover until an alternative night staff is sourced.
- Where there is no suitable office/area/collection and test point.

Exceptional circumstances and the use of LFD's at home must be approved by a Locality manager.

PHE will launch the online replenishment portal w/c 1st February, which will allow services to place an order for LFDs.

The online replenishment portal is very similar to the current process you follow for ordering the standard PCR test kits that are used for regular staff and resident testing. The only difference being that from this portal you will select LFD test kits, rather than your standard PCR test kit order. You should continue to order regular PCR kits for staff and residents as per usual.

Self-test Guidance

Please share the published self-test guidance to all your staff members who will be testing at home. It is the care home manager's responsibility to maintain records of the kits that are distributed, including the LOT number, which can be located on the box of 25 LFD tests.

You can find the self-test guidance at the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955242/care-home-lfd-self-test-guidance-v22-01.pdf

Registering LFD test results

All lateral flow device tests must be registered (whether positive, indeterminate/void, or negative) as a legal requirement at:

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

Understanding results, and the prevalence rate is crucial for public health teams to understand the prevalence of coronavirus in care homes across the country and be able to support the care sector appropriately. It is therefore very important that care homes have made the necessary arrangements with staff self-testing at home to ensure that all results from lateral flow device tests are registered online.

Registration should be done within 24hrs to ensure that results can assist NHS Test and Trace in understanding transmission and prevalence.

Training

All care home staff members that are using LFD tests must have completed the training on the NHS Test and Trace online training portal. The training videos last about 15 minutes followed by a competency assessment.

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

Token: 3wkcVi4UTX

Any care home staff member who has not yet completed the training can use the above link to create an account, access the training videos, and complete the competency assessment. Once the training is complete, screenshots of the competency assessment can be sent to the care home manager to be stored for internal records.

Please note, the registration process on the training portal is different to the one described above. You must follow the registration process highlighted in the section above (please see pages 16 to 19 in the self-test guidance for further detail on the registration process).

It is critical that your care home staff member does not begin LFD testing until they have completed the assessment.