

Lateral flow antigen test FAQs

Initial roll out 34 trusts

Version 2, UHP specific 11 November 2020

Frequently asked questions

These are the specific FAQs related to the lateral flow antigen tests. For all questions on HR processes following a positive test and related isolation questions, please refer to NHS Employers' FAQs on asymptomatic staff testing:

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/asymptomatic-testing>

Q. What type of test are we rolling out?

The Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test uses a swab which has been in contact with the nostril of the person being tested. The swab is inserted into the extraction tube with the extraction fluid and then rotated and pressed to make sure that the sample from the swab is released into the extraction fluid (swab is then discarded at this point). You then take the extraction tube with the nozzle cap and place 2 drops of extraction fluid into the sample well of the LFD testing device cartridge and wait for the results on the test device.

Q. Is the test mandatory or voluntary?

Tests are voluntary, but we would encourage staff to be involved in the testing to benefit colleagues and patients.

Q. How frequently should staff be tested?

Staff should test themselves twice weekly every three to four days to fit with shift patterns and leave requirements; for example, Wednesday and Sunday, or Tuesday and Thursday.

Q. What happens if staff get a positive result?

Staff should contact the Centralised Absence Reporting line on 01752 430000 or email plt-tr.occhealthcovid@nhs.net A confirmatory PCR test will be arranged. Please have your batch number ready to give to the person you speak to. You and your household should isolate as set out in government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Q. What happens if my test is negative, but I have coronavirus symptoms?

If you have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms please contact the Centralised Absence Reporting line on 01752 430000 or email plt-tr.occhealthcovid@nhs.net to arrange a PCR test and do not come into work with symptoms. Do not come into work based on a negative Lateral Flow

Q. Are we asking potentially positive staff to come to hospitals for a confirmatory PCR test?

No. Please contact the Centralised Absence Reporting line on 01752 430000 or email plt-tr.occhealthcovid@nhs.net to arrange your test to be carried out safely at Seaton Barracks. You should continue to isolate until you have the results of the PCR test.

Q. What should staff do with the used tests?

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

Q. At what stage is Test and Trace informed of the result?

At the point the confirmatory PCR test result is known, and this is a positive result, test results will, as normal, be referred to Test and Trace.

Q. If a staff member has a positive PCR COVID-19 test, when should they start the lateral flow antigen tests again?

A staff member who tested positive would recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken. The staff member will need to liaise with their NHS organisations to track the date at which the retesting should start.

Q. If staff are already regularly being tested through existing regimes – eg professionals visiting care homes, SIREN testing, PCR testing in Tier 3 areas, etc – should this be replaced by lateral flow tests?

If staff are already enrolled in another testing regime, this should not be replaced by the lateral flow tests.

If they are participating in research studies where the frequency of testing is not weekly (eg monthly) they should undertake twice-weekly LFD self-testing. For example, staff members participating in the SIREN study and having qRT PCR

testing every two weeks should also be part of the twice-weekly LFD testing if they are a patient-facing member of staff.

Q. What about LAMP testing – I thought this was being used for asymptomatic staff testing?

We are building LAMP testing capacity in pathology hubs across the country. As this becomes available it will be used for staff testing.

Q. What is being sent to trusts?

In the first instance, 1,250 boxes of 25 tests each will be delivered, with further deliveries to be arranged. Trusts will receive sufficient lateral flow tests to provide one box of 25 tests to each patient-facing member of staff as soon as possible.

Q. How many tests will staff 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)

Q. How do we collect the results of these tests?

Initially the collection of results will be manual with staff recording their results on paper and handing to their organisation. A digital solution is being developed.

Q. What is the false positive rate?

The Government reports that the specificity of the test was recorded as 99.68% – the overall false positive rate was 0.32%, although this was lowered to 0.06% in a lab setting.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/oxford-university-and-phe-confirm-high-sensitivity-of-lateral-flow-tests>

Q. What is the sensitivity of the result?

Sensitivity means the proportion of people with a disease that have a positive test, whereas specificity means the proportion of people without the disease that have a negative test. It has an overall sensitivity of 76.8% for all PCR-positive individuals but detects over 95% of individuals with high viral loads, and minimal difference between the ability of the test to pick up viral antigens in symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals

Q. How should organisations collate these results?

Results should be collated by organisations using the reporting template and uploaded to PHE’s POCT portal.

Q. Is there any prioritisation of which staff this should be rolled out to first?

Sufficient volumes of the lateral flow devices will be sent to organisations to enable all patient-facing staff to be given the test as soon as possible.

Q. Can staff use the tests for their symptomatic family members? Staff and family members who have symptoms should access tests in the normal way.

Region Name	Trust Name
North West	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust
North East and Yorkshire	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust
Midlands	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS FT University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust
East of England	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
London	<p>Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust</p> <p>The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust</p> <p>Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust</p> <p>Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust</p> <p>Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust</p> <p>London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust</p>
South East	<p>Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust</p> <p>Buckingham Healthcare NHS Trust</p> <p>University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust</p> <p>Medway NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Somerset NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>
South West	<p>University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust</p>

Please note this document is a UHP-amended version of the national NHS England and NHS Improvement publication approval reference: 001559

This has been amended to include UHP-specific details, such as the Centralised Absence Reporting line and information on specificity and sensitivity added from the Government news release: available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/oxford-university-and-phe-confirm-high-sensitivity-of-lateral-flow-tests>