

Why are we testing staff without Covid-19 symptoms?

We know that some people have Covid-19 but do not display any symptoms. Although they remain well, they can still transmit the virus to others.

People who have Covid-19 should not be in the workplace and should self-isolate according to Public Health guidelines to minimise the spread of infection.

The key objectives of testing asymptomatic people for SARS CoV-2 are to:

- Help reduce transmission of SARS CoV-2
- Reduce episodes of staff absenteeism particularly in relation to quarantine following contact with a COVID-positive colleague or patient
- Support HSC in its infection control risk reduction strategies to protect patients and staff.

Why are we using the home LFD kits and not testing by PCR?

The current gold standard in testing for SARS CoV-2 infection is the PCR test. States of Guernsey PCR testing must be allocated to symptomatic cases and people who are contacts of cases. If a positive LFT is noted a PCR test will be undertaken.

Should I use the test if I have any symptoms of Covid-19?

No. You should not use this test if you have developed Covid-19 suspect symptoms, since the LFD may give a false-negative result and hence provide a false re-assurance.

The test is intended for **asymptomatic people**.

If you have any Covid-19 suspect symptoms, report to your line manager and the Clinical Helpline (01481 756 938 / 01481 756 969).

Can I use the LFD test to test my family members or friends?

No. Under no circumstances should you use the LFDs to test family members or friends. These kits are provided by the States of Guernsey for testing specific groups of people. You are only provided with one testing kit and this needs to last you for the 3 month period.

Should I perform this test if I have had a positive COVID-19 PCR result in the last 3 months?

No. You should not do the LFD test if you have had a positive Covid-19 PCR in the last 90 days. The LFD may give a false positive result if you have recently had Covid-19.

If however you tested PCR positive for COVID-19 more than 90 days ago, then you are encouraged to be involved in the testing, since re-infection after 3 months has been described, although sporadically.

What happens if I miss a test?

Report to your line manager if you have missed a test, or if you cannot undertake 2 tests a week.

What happens if I don't want to keep testing myself regularly?

Testing is not mandatory, but you are encouraged to be involved in the testing during the Pandemic, to benefit your community.

If you want to discontinue regular testing please discuss this with your line manager so we can understand the reasons why you no longer want to undergo regular testing.

Are there any safety concerns in doing the LFD test?

There are no safety concerns if the test is performed according to the flow chart for using the lateral flow test. The extraction fluid may be harmful if swallowed. If you happen to swallow it accidentally, seek medical assistance. Always keep the box out of reach of children or pets.

Should I perform this test if I have had a positive Covid-19 antibody result in the last 12 months?

At the time of writing this question it was not known if a positive Covid-19 antibody test result represents immunity to infection, and if so for how long. Therefore you are still encouraged to be involved in the LFD testing program.

Should I continue to do the LFD test if I have had a Covid-19 vaccine?

Yes, regardless of your vaccination status, you should continue to use a LFD device

When will Public Health Test and Trace be informed of my result?

The positive PCR test result will, as normal, be referred by the laboratory systems to Public Health.

Do I still need to follow Public Health guidelines at work and during my travel to and from work if I test negative?

YES.

The test has an overall sensitivity of 76.8% for all PCR positive individuals. This means some positive cases will be missed with this test and it is therefore vitally important that staff still follow all Public Health guidelines.

Will this LFD test find all staff with asymptomatic Covid-19?

The test has an overall sensitivity of 76.8% for all PCR positive individuals but detects over 95% of individuals with high viral loads. The lower sensitivity of this test compared to PCR means some positive people will be missed with this test and it is therefore vitally important that people still follow all the Public Health guidelines.

It has been suggested that the twice weekly testing, the ease of testing and the speed of the result may compensate for the lower sensitivity.

Although the false positive rate is very low, anyone who has a positive result on the LFD will be asked to undergo a PCR test for confirmation.

Why is the test insert that was in the box different to the instructions given to me by the trust and HSC?

The box contains a technical document from the manufacturers. Feel free to read this but it contains lots of information that may not be very helpful. The instructions in this 'test insert' may also differ slightly from the instructions we have given on how to perform the test.

It is very important you follow the instructions we have given you.

What do I do if I run out of test strips?

You should not run out of test strips if you use 2 a week for the recommended time. Please email lateralflowqueries@gov.gg with any queries about the test kit.
