COVID-19

What you need to know about Lateral Flow Testing

Last updated: July 2021

To help identify more asymptomatic COVID-19 positive staff please follow this guidance.

Why should I do regular LFDs?

- To identify asymptomatic healthcare workers. 1 in 3 with COVID-19 have no symptoms but are spreading the virus.
- Even if community prevalence is low, we must stay vigilant so as to remain on top of any clusters especially in a healthcare environment.
- Testing in this way allows asymptomatic, but positive, staff members to self-isolate immediately, reducing the risk of further spread to others – including your patients and colleagues.

What's the point if I am vaccinated?

- It is even more important now you are vaccinated as you are more likely to be asymptomatic – infection will be harder to identify without testing.
- By testing we can monitor the prevalence of the virus in the community.

Is LFD testing accurate?

- Yes, Lateral Flow Tests have a sensitivity of 76.8 % meaning they identify more than 7/10 positive cases. This rises to over 95 % for those with high viral loads who are most likely to be infectious.

What's the point of recording negative results?

- We need a clear picture of COVID-19 rates within the community. This includes reporting negative test results, of which most tests are.
- Try the new and improved ePortal. It is so much easier to record your results! Follow this link to access the ePortal: covidtestingportal.scot

Local support:

- Each NHS Board has intranet pages with information on testing and a dedicated testing lead. Your local lead can you assist with any queries relating to the use of the device, and offer further training if necessary.
- If you do not know who your local lead is please contact your line manager.

For all further guidance, including an FAQ, please visit: Coronavirus (COVID-19): asymptomatic staff testing in NHS Scotland - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)