92. Covid-19 Home Testing

Lateral Flow Device Testing

Voluntary test kits are available, allowing staff to test for COVID-19 at home.

Lateral flow device (LFD) testing is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and provide results in 30 minutes.

**Key points**

* Recommended Voluntary testing
* Test twice a week where possible, at specific times
	+ Sunday evening after 7pm
	+ Wednesday morning before 8am.
* Tests must be conducted at home not in the setting.
* If you have any COVID symptoms, do not use the Lateral Flow Device (LFD)
* If LFD Positive, book a PCR test, contact manager and do not come into the setting.
* If you are double vaccinated and have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 you do not need to self-isolate if you have no symptoms. You must do a lateral flow test daily for 7 days. This is subject to change inline with any government updates.

**Why are the Lateral Flow Device tests being offered?**

Testing will help to identify positive cases, particularly those who may have the virus and do not have symptoms. This is important as up to one in three people who have the virus have it asymptomatically and show no symptoms. This means people could be spreading the disease unknowingly. By providing staff with home testing kits, we will be able to better meet the needs of our workforce and identify positive cases more quickly to break the chains of transmissions.

**What is a Lateral Flow Device test?**

The test kit is a hand-held device with an absorbent pad at one end and a reading window at the other. Inside the device is a strip of test paper that changes colour in the presence of COVID-19 proteins (antigens).

Lateral flow tests are practical, easy to interpret and can be used in a wide range of settings. This makes them ideal for widespread use in the community.

**How will this work?**

Staff will be asked to take their test kits home and carry out the test twice a week, on a Sunday evening & Wednesday morning prior to start of their shift. The test provides a result in around 30 minutes. Tests must be completed at home, not in the setting to help reduce the risk of positive infections spreading.

Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. You cannot report a result after more than 24 hours.

Staff should also share their result with us, to help with contact tracing. Please email your result to us at info@littleplumsdaynursery.co.uk

Staff with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend the setting.

* You will need to register your test kit online
* Take a swab sample
* Read your results on the test device
* Report your results to the NHS
* Email your result to Little Plums Nursery, info@littleplumsdaynursery.co.uk
* If you receive an Invalid result, you will need to take another test and email both results to us.
* Each staff member will be given a box of kits with their unique lot number. Please ensure you use the same box for each of your tests.

Instructions will be included in your test kits. Step by step guides in different formats are also available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/instructions-for-covid-19-self-test)

**What if my test is positive?**

Staff with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the current stay at home guidance. They will also need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. It is a legal requirement that you notify us of a positive result.

### What if I have symptoms of COVID?

Do not use the LFD. The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result, should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines. Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

**What if I have previously had a positive COVID test result?**

A staff member who tested positive should recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken. Do not use LFD within 90 days of a positive test.

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| *07/12/21* | *Mrs S Bath (Director)* | *01/12/2022* |