

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing available for adult social care in England

Withdrawn 1 April 2022




# Contents

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Symptomatic individuals            | page 3  |
| Care Homes: Staff and residents    | page 4  |
| Care Homes: Outbreak testing       | page 5  |
| Care Homes: Family and friends     | page 6  |
| Care Homes: Visiting professionals | page 7  |
| Extra Care and Supported Living    | page 8  |
| Home Care                          | page 9  |
| Day Care Centres                   | page 10 |
| All other ASC testing              | page 11 |
| Further ASC testing information    | page 12 |

Withdrawn 1 April 2022

## Symptomatic individuals

COVID-19 and flu symptoms can be very similar and it is important to think of both as a possibility when staff, residents or service users have symptoms. The following symptoms could be COVID-19, flu or another respiratory infection:

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  <p><b>Fever of 37.8°C or above</b></p> |  <p><b>New onset or acute worsening of one or more of these symptoms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cough</li> <li>runny nose or congestion</li> <li>sore throat</li> <li>sneezing</li> <li>hoarseness</li> <li>shortness of breath</li> <li>wheezing</li> <li>chest pain</li> </ul> |  <p><b>Sudden decline in physical or mental ability</b></p> |
|--|--|--|

Symptomatic staff or residents should take a PCR test and also LFT\*. Isolate symptomatic individuals. Send symptomatic staff home and advise testing through the [online portal](#) or 119.

**Any adult social care services with a suspected outbreak (of flu, COVID-19 or another acute respiratory infection) should contact their [Health Protection Team](#) (HPT). Many interventions including flu antivirals are more effective the sooner they are started, so do not delay.**

### Potential outbreaks – contacting the HPT

High risk settings (Care Homes, High-risk Extra Care, High risk Supported Living in receipt of regular testing), should contact the HPT if they have with one or more positive cases of COVID-19 or flu, or two or more individuals with any of the symptoms above (suspected cases). This includes both staff and residents and positive results from PCR or LFT.

**For these high risk settings, if you have multiple people with symptoms, do not wait until receiving the COVID-19 PCR result before contacting the HPT.**

Other adult social care services should contact the HPT if they suspect an outbreak.

⊕ If there are one or more **COVID-19 positives**, further COVID-19 tests (and outbreak response) might be needed depending on the setting. Also consider whether individuals may be eligible for COVID-19 treatments including antivirals or monoclonal antibodies (through the [PANORAMIC](#) national study or through [direct access](#) for those at highest risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19).  
Care home outbreak testing may also be needed – see page 5.

⊖ An asymptomatic individual who tests **negative for COVID-19** may have another infectious illness like flu and action may be needed to limit transmission, including but not limited to:

- **If multiple individuals have symptoms, this could be a flu outbreak – discuss flu antivirals with your HPT**
- Symptomatic individuals should continue to isolate if they continue to have symptoms.
- Staff should stay away from work if they have flu like symptoms.
- Appropriate PPE should be worn when working with residents/service users with flu like symptoms.

### Remember, there are also preventative steps to take to reduce the risk from flu:

1. **Maximise [flu vaccination uptake](#) for staff and residents as well as **COVID-19 booster vaccination**.** Staff can receive a free flu vaccine by booking an appointment at their GP practice or community pharmacy.
2. **Keep good infection prevention and control measures in place** - flu spreads in a similar way to COVID-19. The measures in place for COVID-19 such as ventilation, hand hygiene, social distancing, PPE, cleaning and avoiding symptomatic individuals entering the care home will all help to reduce the risks from flu. This [poster](#) can be displayed for visitors.

\*For adult social care, anyone with the symptoms above should do both a COVID-19 PCR and also if possible an LFT. The LFT can provide an early warning that someone is positive and inform the outbreak management approach but the PCR should still be done for someone with symptoms, whether the LFT is positive or negative.

## Care Homes: Staff and residents

Key: **P** PCR test **L** Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

No clinically suspected or confirmed cases in staff or residents

[Apply for regular testing](#) and follow whole home retesting cycle.\*

- **Staff testing:** Daily LFT (on days they are working)
- **Resident testing:** Every 28 days with PCR

| Day      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff    | L | L | L | L | L |   |
| Resident | P |   |   |   |   |   |

All adult care homes registered with CQC are eligible for regular asymptomatic testing using the organisation registration portal. See guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-care-home>

### Testing within 90 days of a positive result:

If someone has tested positive with an LFT or PCR test, the testing they undertake in the following 90 days may be different. Full guidance on what testing they should do within 90 days of a positive PCR or LFT result can be found in [this guidance](#)

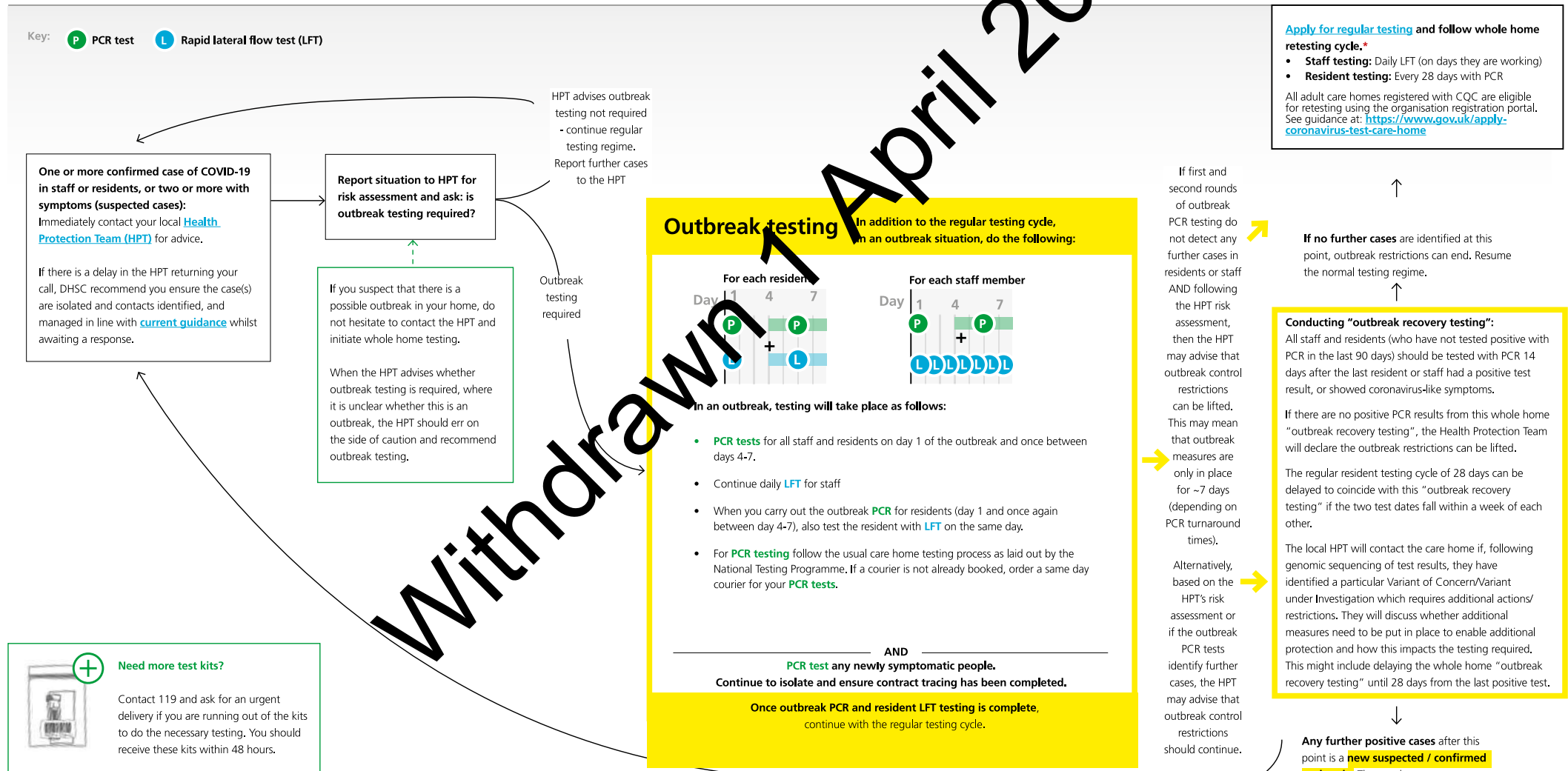
Withdrawn 1 April 2022



# Care Homes: Outbreak testing

**Definition of an outbreak:** 2 or more clinically suspected or confirmed positives (LFT or PCR) among residents or staff detected in the same 14 day period. Two or more cases therefore usually requires outbreak testing, HPT to advise. One positive test result may be the first sign of an outbreak, so you should also contact your health protection team for advice in this instance.

**If someone has tested positive with an LFT/PCR test, the testing they undertake in the following 90 days may be different.** Full guidance on what testing they should do within 90 days of a positive PCR or LFT result can be found in [here](#).



## Care Homes: Family and friends

Key: **L** Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

For more information about visitor guidance, visit:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus>

Is the visitor providing regular essential care and support?

No

All family and friends visitors to care homes should be tested each time they visit with an LFT **L**. Visitors to care homes are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated.

If a visitor receives a negative result, visitors can proceed as long as visitors wear appropriate PPE throughout the visit and follow all infection prevention and control measures.

If a visitor receives an invalid result, they repeat the visitor with an LFT. If they receive an invalid result again, visitors can have a visit similar to someone who has not been tested, at the discretion of each care home.

If a visitor receives a positive result, they should isolate at home immediately and follow the instructions included in their result notification.

Yes

All essential care givers should be tested in line with care home staff testing, including daily LFT **L** as well as any outbreak testing determined by the local HPT.

### Testing within 90 days of a positive result:

If someone has tested positive with an LFT or PCR test, the testing they undertake in the following 90 days may be different. Full guidance on what testing they should do within 90 days of a positive PCR or LFT result can be found in [this guidance](#)

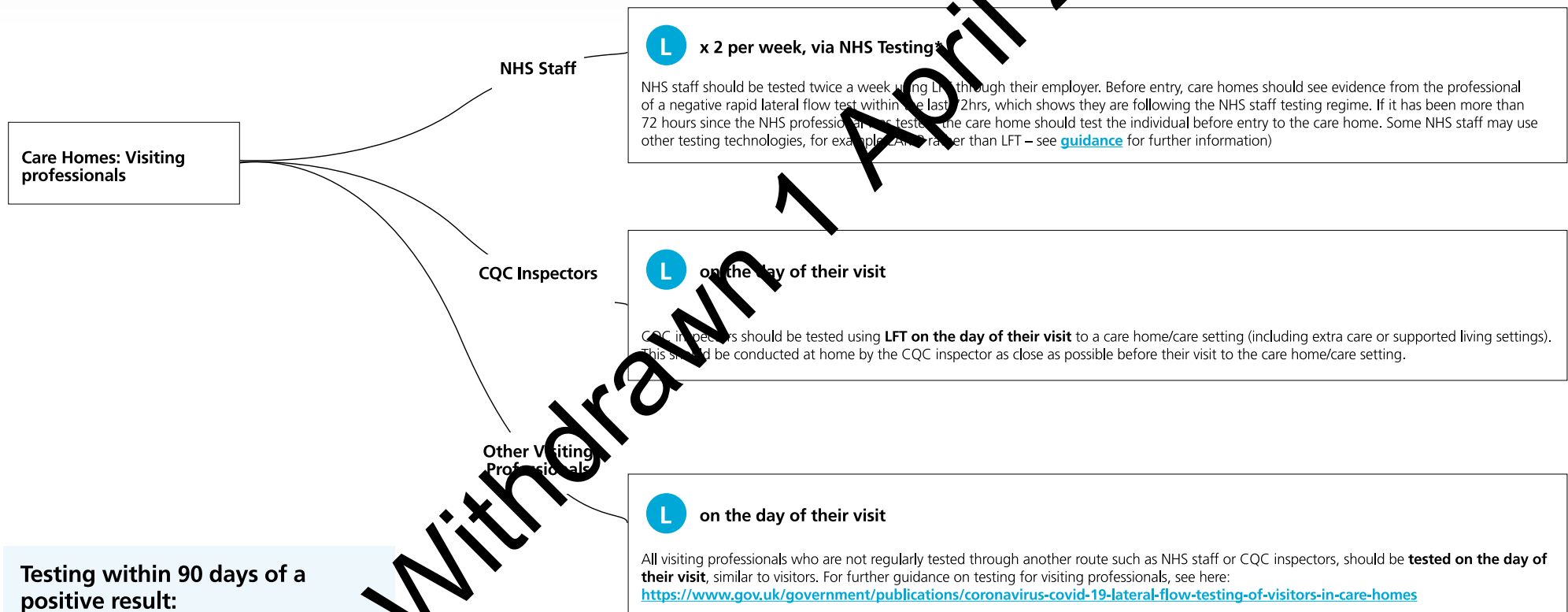
Visitors should not enter the care home if they are feeling unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19 and are fully vaccinated. Transmissible viruses such as flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and norovirus can be just as dangerous to care home residents as COVID-19. If visitors have any symptoms that suggest other transmissible viruses, such as cough, high temperature, diarrhoea or vomiting, they should avoid the care home until at least 5 days after they feel better.

Withdrawn 1 April 2022

## Care Homes: Visiting professionals

“Visiting professionals” are defined as professionals who visit care homes as part of delivering their role, including health professionals, CQC inspectors and maintenance workers. **The default position is that without a negative test, the professional should not be allowed into the care home.** (unless in an emergency, unless overridden by the care home manager following a risk based decision, or unless their entry is required by law such as CQC inspectors).

Key: ● PCR test ● Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)



### Testing within 90 days of a positive result:

If someone has tested positive with an LFT or PCR test, the testing they undertake in the following 90 days may be different. Full guidance on what testing they should do within 90 days of a positive PCR or LFT result can be found in [this guidance](#)

# Extra Care and Supported Living

Key: **P** PCR test **L** Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

For full guidance on testing for extra care and supported living:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-service-for-extra-care-and-supported-living-settings>

### Outbreak Testing

Report to [Health Protection Team \(HPT\)](#) / Directors of Public Health. They will:

- undertake an initial risk assessment
- provide advice on outbreak management
- decide what testing is needed

To find out which public health team covers your area visit:  
<https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>

### High risk extra care and supported living settings:

**Staff testing:** Daily LFT (on days they are working)

**Resident testing:** Monthly PCR testing

| Day      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff    | L | L | L | L | L |   |
| Resident |   |   |   | P |   |   |

You have a new or current outbreak?

Yes

No

Does your setting meet **BOTH** of the following criteria:

- 1 The setting is a closed community with substantial facilities shared between multiple people.
- 2 A majority of residents (more than 50%) receive the kind of personal care that is CQC regulated (rather than help with cooking, cleaning and shopping).

Yes, both criteria are met

No, just one of these are met

### Wider extra care and supported living settings:

**Staff testing:** Daily LFT (on days they are working)

| Day   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff | L | L | L | L | L |   |   |

### Testing within 90 days of a positive result:

If someone has tested positive with an LFT or PCR test, the testing they undertake in the following 90 days may be different. Full guidance on what testing they should do within 90 days of a positive PCR or LFT result can be found in [this guidance](#)

Withdrawn 1 April 2022



# Home Care

Key: **L** Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

Type of home care?

Domiciliary care

Personal assistants

All CQC registered domiciliary care workers should conduct daily LFT testing.

| Day   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff | L | L | L | L | L |   |   |

Organisations can order tests for their staff using their NIN from <https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>  
All home care organisations registered with CQC providing personal care are eligible for regular asymptomatic testing using the organisation registration portal.

For full guidance on testing for domiciliary care testing, please see:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-homecare-workers-information-for-agencies>

Personal Assistants should test daily using LFT on the days they are working.

Tests should be ordered for themselves or by an employer from  
<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

| Day   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff | L | L | L | L | L |   |   |

For full guidance on testing for personal assistants, please see:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-personal-assistants>

## Testing within 90 days of a positive result:

If someone has tested positive with an LFT or PCR test, the testing they undertake in the following 90 days may be different. Full guidance on what testing they should do within 90 days of a positive PCR or LFT result can be found in [this guidance](#)

Withdrawn 1 April 2022

## Day Care Centres

Day care centres run by paid care staff that provide services in non-residential care settings which support the health and wellbeing of adults (i.e. over 18). This includes settings such as:

- purpose-built day centres
- day centres attached to or part of a care home or supported living setting
- other buildings in communities specifically used for regular adult day care.

Eligible settings can get access to testing through the organisation self-referral portal: <https://request-onboarding.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>

Key: ● PCR test ● Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

**Staff:** Daily LFT (on days they are working)

| Day   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |   |   |

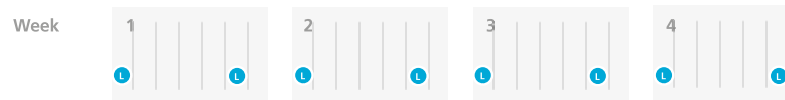
Organisations can order tests for their staff using their UON from <https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/> for full guidance on testing for day care centres, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-adult-day-care-centre-workers>

### Testing within 90 days of a positive result:

If someone has tested positive with an LFT or PCR test, the testing they undertake in the following 90 days may be different. Full guidance on what testing they should do within 90 days of a positive PCR or LFT result can be found in [this guidance](#)

**Service users testing schedule:** Service users can still visit the centres if they have not tested. Testing is not mandatory.

We recommend for service users that are able to test, to test twice a week with 3-4 days in between using rapid LFT only. If they are attending twice a week, test on the days of attendance. If they are attending once a week, they only need to test once in the week. These should ideally be on the day, prior to attending the centre.



Testing can be completed either at-home or on-site at the discretion of the day care centre manager.

Service users can also self-test or receive assisted swabbing.

Withdrawn 1 April 2022



## All other ASC testing

Do you have access to regular ASC testing? (Are you part of a testing programme detailed above?)

Yes

Adult Social Care staff who are eligible for regular testing through a national adult social care testing programme (for example all care home staff, domiciliary carers, eligible extra care and supported living settings, and eligible day care centres) should continue to access testing through their existing adult social care testing programme and continuing registering all results to their Unique Organisation Number (UON).

This is important because these testing regimes are designed specifically for each part of adult social care based on clinical advice from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and Public Health England (PHE). We monitor the testing data for each part of adult social care to understand the prevalence in that sector and inform our guidance to keep people as safe as possible.

No

[Free rapid coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests](#) are now available for everyone in England without symptoms.

Anyone working in adult social care who is not currently part of regular testing regime should access daily LFT testing through this link. This will be crucial in detecting people that are infectious and to help maintain the safety of everyone in the ASC sector.

Adult Social Care staff who are not part of a regular testing regime may include social workers and support workers, those working for charities or community organisations, shared lives carers, personal assistants and others. Where appropriate, regular testing of people being supported (for example if attending respite) may also be beneficial.

Rapid lateral flow tests (LFT) are available for home delivery, for collection at participating pharmacies and local sites and at local asymptomatic test sites. Staff should access these tests through any of these routes and test daily with LFT on days they are working, before their shift begins.

Our guidance on testing for anyone working in adult social care who is not part of regular testing at work can be found [here](#).

### Testing within 90 days of a positive result:

If someone has tested positive with an LFT or PCR test, the testing they undertake in the following 90 days may be different. Full guidance on what testing they should do within 90 days of a positive PCR or LFT result can be found in [this guidance](#)

Withdrawn 1 April 2022

## Further ASC testing information

Anyone with symptoms can get tested for coronavirus by visiting [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

### Further Care Home Information

#### Testing for people being admitted to a care home

People being admitted to a care home from hospital, another care facility, or the community should test before admission. For further information visit: [guidance on admission, isolation and test](#).

### Further ASC Information

#### Testing Strategy

Our testing strategy for adult social care is based on scientific advice on relative priorities and available testing in order to limit the spread and save lives. We are continuing to develop our testing strategy for adult social care. We will continue to review our social care testing strategy for adult social care in light of the latest evidence, available capacity and new testing innovations. Anyone with suspected coronavirus symptoms can access testing through the self-referral portal on [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

#### Testing and COVID-19 vaccine

Whilst vaccination offers vital protection, no vaccine is 100% effective, and importantly we do not yet know if being vaccinated prevents transmission of the disease. In order to identify positive cases and continue to monitor the effects and transmission of coronavirus, we must continue to operate a thorough and meaningful testing programme, even in settings where vaccines have been administered. We will keep this policy under review as further evidence becomes available regarding the impact of vaccination.

#### Antibody Testing

All paid adult social care staff are able to access an at-home antibody test. This includes all staff working in residential care, homecare and local authority adult social care departments. For more information and to access an antibody test, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/register-coronavirus-antibody-test>

#### ASC Staff Isolation Guidance

If a staff member is fully vaccinated and notified that they are a contact of a COVID-19 positive case, they are not required to self-isolate and can continue working provided they:

- have received a negative PCR test
- receive daily negative LFD tests for the duration of their otherwise isolation period

If an unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff member is notified that they are a contact of a COVID-19 positive case, they must self-isolate as advised unless they are exempt.

For further guidance, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings>

#### Further advice

If you have any issues with registration, delivery or collection of test kits, contact the Coronavirus Testing call centre on 119. It's open from 07:00 to 23:00 every day.

Any adult social care setting with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 outbreak should contact their local Health Protection Team. Contact details are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>