



South East London Clinical Commissioning Group



Document created by South East London CCG and Londonwide LMCs on 4.12.2020

Lateral Flow Testing

What is it?

- Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing is point-of-care rapid testing, with results available in under 30 mins.
- It is a throat and nasal swab, and is used with a kit similar to a pregnancy test kit with a control line and positive line indicator.
- It's useful in detecting individuals with high viral loads.
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) lab testing is, and will remain, the Gold Standard for patient testing, and testing of symptomatic staff, patients and public. However LFD testing is helpful in testing groups on mass that are asymptomatic. However, a PCR confirmatory test is required for all LFD positives.

Why do I need to know about this now?

- Practices need to know about it because the tests are going to be made available to general practice staff very shortly – no date confirmed as yet.
- Each member of the practice staff will have the option of receiving a box of 25 tests to enable regular use (twice weekly, for 3 months initially) for asymptomatic testing.
- Practices will be contacted shortly to ask how many boxes they would like to receive.
- Each practice needs to consider how many boxes of tests they require, and where they would like them delivered, as there are some storage requirements. All staff need to be considered including

locums, trainees and aligned staff. See here for further details:

<https://selondonccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/What-is-LFT-Powerpoint.pdf>

- Each practice will need to consider how non-clinical staff will be tested on site, if they are not comfortable doing it themselves.
- Each practice will need to consider how they train clinical and non-clinical staff to undertake self-testing where possible. A link is attached on the slide pack to a training resource.
- In addition, each practice will need to register ASAP for practice PCR tests to enable confirmatory testing, if needed, and for use by the practice for any patients presenting with covid symptoms or staff and household members with symptoms.
- Test kits can be ordered now from this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-testing-in-general-practice>

- Any issues in signing up, please call 119 and ask to speak with the specialist team, they will assist you with registration, obtaining your code, ordering and any courier questions that you might have. Alternatively dial 0300 303 2713 then option1, then option 2.
- Practices will need to ensure that there is a process in place to follow up on positive LFT tests.
- Practices will be required to undertake some national and local reporting, however, the IT solution for this is not yet available, and so either we will have to wait for the national system, adapt a local solution in the interim, or revert to labour intensive manual reporting. However, the latest information is that the national solution will be available - further details to follow.

What happens next?

- We need an idea on the numbers of box sets that each practice requires. We are asking practices to start the discussion with their staff on who wants to take part in lateral flow testing. This is not mandatory and is down to the individual.
- Every practice needs to register to receive PCR tests using the same government [link](#) as above. This will ensure that you have PCR tests – should they be needed if one of your staff members tests positive through the lateral flow test.
- As soon as we have more information we will let you know through the usual channels.