

The following key messages are aimed at GP practices, PCN Directors, Primary Care Leads, Practice Managers and Practice Staff and Community Pharmacists and relate to COVID19 testing and vaccination delivery

Current Issues and actions:

From Monday 16th August – anyone who is double vaccinated 14 days + or under 18 years and 6 months old will not need to self isolate if they are a contact of someone with covid 19. However anyone with symptoms must continue to self isolate and obtain a PCR test to confirm they are covid negative before coming out of isolation.

Communications materials:

See link to PHE and GOV communications resource: [Full PHE comms resources hub https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Antigen Testing:

How to access antigen testing?

Anybody can access an antigen testing kit as below.

Lateral Flow Testing: Regular staff testing for Covid-19 is critical to protect staff and patients and slow the spread of Covid-19. Rapid testing kits (lateral flow devices) make regular testing easy to do. Testing is important, even if you've been vaccinated, as vaccination does not provide 100% protection, so Staff testing for coronavirus should be a regular habit - twice a week, every week. LFDs are effective in quickly identifying those who don't have symptoms but are very likely to transmit Covid-19. This will prevent the virus from entering your workplace and stopping outbreaks before they occur. Since rapid testing was introduced, over 120,000 positive cases that would not have been found otherwise, have already been identified by rapid testing kits

PCR Tests: General Practice settings are encouraged to access a small stock of PCR swab testing kits. These can be used with patients who present with Covid symptoms and symptomatic GP staff and their household members where needed. Note there will be no public communications around this, as the first point of call should still be one of the national routes. Assistance in ordering these can be made via the Specialist Team via 119. Please follow the link for information. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-testing-in-general-practice>

All practices are strongly advised to engage all practice staff in regular lateral flow testing. This will aid in the protection of colleagues, patients and manage the spread of covid 19. It is a statutory requirement that ALL test results, regardless of outcome (positive, negative, invalid) must be reported. <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Reporting is quick and easy and once an account is set up the reporting takes less than 2 mins, with a confirmatory text and email to follow test uploads.

If you are non Symptomatic, please access Lateral Flow Test Kits from: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> (1 pack of 7 kits per household member can be ordered per day if you have no symptoms) these can be delivered to your home. You can also collect test kits from a test site or from a local pharmacy (only in England) from: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

If you are symptomatic: Please access lab based PCR Testing from: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> (use this route if you also need a confirmatory PCR following a positive lateral flow test)