

**1. Overview Table:**

When considering actions needed when testing for Covid-19 in staff members, the presence or absence of COVID-19 symptoms, the outcome of lateral flow tests (LFTs) and requirement for a PCR test need to be considered (see section 2 for PCR prioritisation). In a few circumstances the vaccinated status of the staff member will need to be considered as well. Please follow the sequence in the table below which is an overview of the current process and outcomes from testing.

Covid Symptoms	LFT result	PCR result	Vaccination status	Action
<b>Symptomatic, with or without known contact</b> <b>See section 3 for further instructions</b>	+ve	+ve	Any	Isolate
		-ve		Return to work if clinically well
	-ve	+ve		Isolate
		-ve		Return to work if clinically well
<b>Asymptomatic, with known contact – household or social</b> <b>See section 4 for further instructions for lateral flow</b>	+ve	+ve	Any	Isolate
		-ve	Vaccinated	Return to work
	-ve	+ve	unvaccinated	Isolate
			Any	Isolate
		-ve	vaccinated	Return to work
			unvaccinated	Isolate
<b>Routine twice weekly testing (LFT)</b>	+ve	+ve	Any	Isolate
		-ve		Return to work
	-ve	Not needed	Any	Continue to work
<b>Routine LAMP testing with +ve result</b>	Not needed	Not needed	Any	Isolate

## 2. Accessing PCR/LIAT Prioritisation

We have a current challenge of getting timely PCR testing to allow staff who have been in contact with someone with COVID 19 or who has a positive lateral flow. A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You can be a contact any time from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms (or, if they did not have any symptoms, from 2 days before the date their positive test was taken) and up to 7 days after – as this is when they can pass the infection on to others.

Testing platform	LiAT testing within ED - <b>Do not directly attend ED for a LIAT without going via your line manager or CNP. If you do you will be refused a LIAT</b>	PCR Test (results within 24 hours) via normal swabbing pathway at Little Lane, Sandwell Hospital 8am – 4pm. Call 0121 507 2664 choose option 6 to book your PCR test	PCR Test (standard) via normal swabbing pathway at Little Lane, Sandwell Hospital 8am – 4pm. Call 0121 507 2664 choose option 6 to book your PCR test
<b>Indications</b>	Needed on shift within the next 18 hrs and staffing levels are below minimum numbers and can't be covered by alternative staff member: such as on call clinician, nurse/AHP/midwife/HCA, staff in patient facing areas	All patient facing staff not in LiAT category who are not due to be on shift within 18 hrs	Patients and all other staff group where result not needed in < 48 hours
<b>Process</b>	During working hours this should be via their line manger to IPC and out of hours via the CNP duty manager. If you do not meet this criteria you will be a refused a liAT test and asked to attend Little Lane for PCR test as below  Do not directly attend ED for a LIAT without going via your line manager or CNP. If you do you will be refused a liAT		

### 3. COVID-19 +ve staff

Day 1 of isolation is the day after the staff member has developed symptoms, or if asymptomatic the date the positive LFT/LIAT/PCR test was taken, whichever is earlier.

**Colleagues can return to work from day 7 if they have had two negative lateral flow tests, feel clinically well and have a normal temperature. The LFTs should be taken 24 hours apart. The first LFT should not be taken before the sixth day and should ideally be taken as soon as possible, on waking.**

If both these test results are negative, they may return to work after the second (day 7) negative LFT under the following conditions:

- The staff member should not have a high temperature over 37.8 degrees or still feel clinically unwell
- The staff member should continue to perform LFT tests every day for the remainder of the 10-day period, If any LFT test result is positive the staff member should continue to isolate and should wait 24 hours before taking the next LFT test (see table)
- If staff continue to lateral flow test positive post 10 days please discuss with micro/virologist and IPC team.
- On days the staff member is working, the LFT test should be taken at home prior to beginning their shift (as close as possible to the start time).
- All staff must comply with all recommended infection prevention and control precautions.
- If the staff member works with patients or residents who are especially vulnerable to COVID-19, a risk assessment should be undertaken, and consideration given to redeployment for the remainder of the 10-day period.

Day following positive test or start of symptoms	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11
<b>Scenario one</b>	-VE LFT	-VE LFT	Can return to work IF -VE LFT + No Temperature	Continue daily testing IF -VE LFT + No Temperature Can work	Continue daily testing IF -VE LFT + No Temperature Can work	Can return to normal asymptomatic testing
<b>Scenario Two</b>	+VE LFT	-VE LFT	-VE LFT	Can return to work IF -VE LFT + No Temperature	Continue daily testing IF -VE LFT + No Temperature Can work	Can return to normal asymptomatic testing
<b>Scenario Three</b>	+VE LFT	+VE LFT	-VE LFT	-VE LFT	Can return to work IF -VE LFT + No Temperature	Can return to normal asymptomatic testing
<b>Scenario Four</b>	+VE LFT	+VE LFT	+VE LFT	+VE LFT	+VE LFT	If staff continue to lateral flow test positive post 10 days please discuss with micro/virologist and IPC team.
<b>Scenario Five</b>	-VE LFT	-VE LFT	Can return to work IF -VE LFT + No Temperature	+VE LFT Stop working	+VE LFT	If staff continue to lateral flow test positive post 10 days please discuss with micro/virologist and IPC team.

#### **4. If you are a contact of a COVID-19 case**

##### Definition

A contact is a person who has been close to someone (such as less than 1 metre with no mask for more than 15 minutes) who has tested positive for COVID-19. You can be a contact any time from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms (or, if they did not have any symptoms, from 2 days before the date their positive test was taken) and up to 10 days after – as this is when the infection can be passed on to others. This includes both household and social contacts. In these circumstances, there are different requirements depending on your vaccination status:

- Vaccinated staff - If you have symptoms or not, a negative PCR result is required before you can return to work. You must also take a LFT every day for 10 days whilst working.
- Unvaccinated staff - If you have symptoms or not you must do a PCR test and, regardless of the result, you must isolate for 10 days.