

Staff isolation and when to return to work. V2 14/7/2022

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. 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 |
|---|------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Symptomatic, with or without known contact See section 2 for further instructions | +ve | +ve | Any | Isolate |
| | | -ve | | Return to work if clinically well |
| | -ve | +ve | | Isolate |
| | | -ve | | Return to work if clinically well |
| | | | | |
| Asymptomatic, with known contact – household or social See section 2 for further instructions for lateral flow | +ve | +ve | Any | Isolate |
| | | -ve | | Return to work |
| | -ve | +ve | | Isolate |
| | | -ve | | Return to work |
| | | | | |
| Routine twice weekly testing (LFT) – Patient-facing staff | +ve | +ve | Any | Isolate |
| | | -ve | | Return to work |
| | -ve | Not needed | Any | Continue to work |
| | | | | |

2. 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/PCR test was taken, whichever is earlier.

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Colleagues can return to work 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 day 4 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 6) 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)
- 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.
- If still positive at Day 10 but asymptomatic you must speak to IPC about return to work
- If still positive at Day 10 but clinically unwell you must refrain from work until clinically well

| Day following positive test or start of symptoms | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 | Day 8 | Day 9 | Day 10 | Day 11 |
|--|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Scenario one | -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 | 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 twice weekly if patient facing staff |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Scenario Two | +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 | 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 twice weekly if patient facing staff |
| Scenario Three | +VE LFT | +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 | Continue daily testing IF -VE LFT + No Temperature Can work | Can return to normal asymptomatic testing |
| Scenario Four | +VE LFT | +VE LFT | +VE LFT | +VE LFT | -VE LFT | -VE LFT | Can return to work IF -VE LFT + No Temperature | Can return to work if normal temp and clinically well but continue twice weekly testing |
| Scenario Five | -VE LFT | -VE LFT | Can return to work IF -VE LFT + No Temperature | +VE LFT Stop working | +VE LFT | -VE LFT | -VE LFT | Can return to work if normal temperature and clinically well but continue twice weekly testing |

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3. 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:

Action

All staff may work but you must also take a LFT every day for 10 days whilst working and wear the appropriate PPE. Any sign of symptoms you must refrain from work.