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) 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** | **Vaccination status** | **Action** |
| **Symptomatic, with or without known contact**  **See section 2 for further instructions** | +ve | Any | Isolate |
| -ve | Return to work if clinically well  (Wearing a Surgical mask until resolution of symptoms) |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Asymptomatic, with known contact – household or social**  **See section 2 for further instructions for lateral flow** | +ve | Any | Isolate |
| -ve | Return to work |

1. **COVID-19 positive 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.

Colleagues can return to work from day 6 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 Working |
| **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 Working |
| **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 Working |
| **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 normal Working |
| **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 normal Working |