

Lateral flow antigen test FAQs

STHK roll out

**Frequently asked questions**

These FAQs specifically relate to the lateral flow antigen tests for patient facing NHS staff. For all questions on HR processes following a positive test and related isolation questions, please refer to the Trust’s self-isolation protocols on the COVID website: <https://covid.sthk.nhs.uk/self-isolation-guidance/>

**PLEASE NOTE THIS TEST IS FOR ASYMPTOMATIC STAFF – IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS, PLEASE FOLLOW THE SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE IMMEDIATELTY AND ARRANGE A PCR TEST THROUGH THE SELF-ISOLATION TEAM.**

**What type of test are we rolling out?**

The Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test uses a swab which has been in contact with the nostril of the person being tested. The swab is inserted into the extraction tube with the extraction fluid and then rotated and pressed to make sure that the sample from the swab is released into the extraction fluid (swab is then discarded at this point).

You then take the extraction tube with the nozzle cap and place 2 drops of extraction fluid into the sample well of the LFD testing device cartridge and wait for the results on the test device.

**How do I complete the test?**

For advice on how to complete your Lateral flow antigen test (LFD), please refer to ‘A guide for healthcare staff self-testing for coronavirus using Lateral Flow Device (LFD)’ on the COVID website <https://covid.sthk.nhs.uk/lateral-flow-device-lfd-testing/> (password: STHKcovid19)

**How frequently should staff be tested?**

Staff should test themselves at the end of their shift twice weekly, every three to four days to fit with shift patterns and leave requirements; for example, Wednesday and Sunday, or Monday and Thursday.

**How do I report my test result?**

You can report your test results by clicking on the below icon that can be found on your Trust desktop:



**What happens if staff get a positive result?**

Staff should inform their manager of a positive result immediately, and refer to the Trust’s self-isolation guidance: <https://covid.sthk.nhs.uk/self-isolation-guidance/>
A confirmatory PCR test will be carried out immediately and the staff member and line manager should commence the self-isolation process immediately.

The line manager will need to complete a self-isolation form; however, a swabbing appointment will not need arranging as this will be done on immediately after a positive LFD test.

**What should staff do with the used tests?**

Staff can safely dispose of the test items in the clinical waste.

**How many tests will staff get?**

The testing kits will arrive in boxes containing the following:

* 25 foil pouches containing the test cartridge and a desiccant
* two vials of 6 mls buffer solution
* 25 extraction tubes and 25 tube caps
* 25 sterilised swabs for sample collection
* Instructions for use of the device (IFU)

Tests will be held within the ward/department.

**What happens if the buffer solution is accidentally consumed?**

As set out in the manufacturer’s safety instructions, the buffer solution is not hazardous; however, if accidentally ingested, a medical practitioner should be informed.

**Will this testing regime remove the need for staff who have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case to self-isolate?**

Government self-isolation advice should be followed at all times. This test does not remove the need to self-isolate should you need to. Information about the self-isolation process can be found here: <https://covid.sthk.nhs.uk/self-isolation-guidance/>

**At what stage is Test and Trace informed of the result?**

At the point the confirmatory PCR test result is known, and this is positive, test results will, be referred automatically to Test and Trace via the normal Public Health England route via the Infection Prevention Team.

**What happens if my test is negative, but I have coronavirus symptoms?**

If you have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms please refer to the Trust’s self-isolation guidance: <https://covid.sthk.nhs.uk/self-isolation-guidance/>

**Is the test mandatory or voluntary?**

Tests are voluntary, but staff should be encouraged to take part to help keep their workplace safe for patients, visitors and all their colleagues.

**If a staff member has a positive PCR COVID-19 test, when should they start the lateral flow antigen tests again?**

A staff member who tested positive would recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken. The staff member will need to liaise with line manager to track the date at which the retesting should start.

**If staff are already regularly being tested through existing regimes – e.g. SIREN testing, PCR testing etc – should this be replaced by lateral flow tests?**

If staff are already enrolled in another testing regime through the Trust, this should not be replaced by the lateral flow tests unless agreed by the organisation.

**Can staff use the tests for their symptomatic family members?**

No. Family members who have symptoms should access tests in the normal way.

**What is the specificity and sensitivity of this particular test?**

The government has published its latest research on these tests: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-11-11-oxford-university-and-phe-confirm-high-sensitivity-lateral-flow-tests-following>