

13.1 Coronavirus Lateral Flow Testing Policy

Background

As an employer we have decided to offer the ability for staff to take a lateral flow test during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Why a lateral flow test?

We understand that the current gold standard in testing for SARS CoV-2 infection is the PCR test. The capacity for PCR testing is limited and mostly reserved for testing individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms.

A lateral flow test is not as sensitive as a PCR test and it is possible that positive cases will be missed. It is therefore important to understand that we are not relaxing our protocols following a negative test result.

Whilst they are not as sensitive as a PCR test, we do feel that the regular testing of asymptomatic staff to be a responsible approach.

How will I be tested?

You will be invited at intervals we set, to take part in a test. The test is self-administered.

You will retain the lateral flow test after the test has been completed. We ask that you dispose of it securely.

How do I perform the test?

You will be given both verbal and printed instructions to enable you to self-administer the test. Please ask if there is anything you are unsure of.

What will happen if I get a positive result from a lateral flow test?

If you get a positive result you need to take the lateral flow test result and get a tested by the PCR method at a Coronavirus testing centre.

You will be asked to commence self-isolation whilst waiting for confirmation. NHS Test and Trace would only become aware of your test result following a positive PCR test not the lateral flow test.

What if I do not wish to be tested?

Having a lateral flow test is not compulsory or mandatory. We encourage you to take the test. If you do not wish to take advantage of the testing that is your choice. If you change your mind about the test, please do let us know so you can be included.

Will you be keeping any records of my lateral flow test results?

No, we do not intend to keep records of the lateral flow test results. If you test positive in a lateral flow test, we will ask you to get booked in for a PCR test to confirm the result. A record of this result of this test may be recorded on an COVID SSP Claim Form for the purposes of claiming a COVID SSP Rebate from the HMRC.