



Lateral Flow Test (LFT) Self-Testing at Home Policy for Visitors

Overall aim

To expand the roll out of COVID-19 testing to regular visitors using lateral flow testing devices (LFTs). This will improve virus detection with the overall aim to prevent further transmission and spread.

LFT's form part of the COVID-19 procedures that Hollow Oak has in place and will not replace the need for all other recommended infection control and risk control measures, which must still be adhered to and followed by all visitors.

Objectives

- Protect vulnerable service users/residents
- Early detection to prevent outbreaks
- Protect Employees
- Identify cases and break chains of transmission

What is lateral flow testing?

Lateral Flow Antigen testing involves the processing of human nasal swabs, throat swabs, or sputum samples with a Lateral Flow Device (LFD). The LFD detects a protein (antigen) produced by the virus at its most infectious stage. If present in the person's sample, a coloured line appears on the device after 10 - 30 mins. LFDs are designed to be used outside a formal laboratory setting and are well suited for frequent testing of large numbers of asymptomatic people.

Testing Frequency

Testing should be carried before coming to visit anyone at Hollow Oak.

Taking a Test

You are welcome to receive test kits form Hollow Oak Nursing Home or you can organise your own tests from another trusted government source.

"COVID-19 Self-Test (Rapid Antigen Test)" kit. This is a Blue and White box. These boxes contain everything you require to carry out 7 LFT tests. Inside the box is an instruction booklet, please ensure you read this booklet carefully before carrying out your own test. You can also go to the following link for an instructional video and more information at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>

If you go to the .gov website there is lots of guidance documents about carrying out tests and more videos. Please make sure you are only getting guidance about testing from the .gov website. Others may not be current guidance or factually correct.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>



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Test Results

Communication of test results to Hollow Oak

Wherever the test is conducted, it must be done on the day of the visit. Once the visitor has reported the test on the .gov website, they will receive confirmation of their result by text message (SMS) and email to show proof of result. Visitors should show proof of a negative test result before every visit, such as:

- an email or text from NHS Test and Trace
- a date-stamped photo of the test cartridge itself

If visitors are not able to produce a negative test, they may be asked to reschedule or be prepared to take the test on site.

Visitors will still be expected to complete a visiting questionnaire and have their temperature taken prior to a visit.

Visitors **MUST NOT** come to Hollow Oak if they have had a positive LTF result. Guidance on what to do should be sought from the .gov website or by calling 119.

A positive LFT result should be regarded as a confirmed case and the individual and their household must self-isolate. See isolation guidance below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If you have a positive LFT test you may be required to take a confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (PCR) which can be arranged through the .gov website or by calling 119.



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Record a rapid lateral flow test result

You should get your result 30 minutes after taking the test.

You must report your results to the NHS

You can report your result to the NHS online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines).

N.B. You will require a *Unique Organisation Number (UON)* to register a test online this is;

10059871

.gov also ask that you report negative and invalid results online: this helps the NHS to monitor the spread of the virus and support communities across the UK.

Waste Disposal from home testing

Test items should be placed in the disposal packaging provided and placed in normal household waste.

Storage of test kits

Tests must be stored securely and out of the reach of children or other vulnerable individuals. Kits do not need refrigeration but should be kept dry and out of direct sunlight and extremes of temperature (between 2 degrees and 30 degrees).

Re-ordering of LFT's

Hollow Oak Nursing Home will keep stocks of the LFT kits. When you are running out of test kits, please just ask for another box on your next visit to Hollow Oak.

These tests are provided for Hollow Oak Visitors. If anyone you know requires a COVID test. Then they/you should seek advice from the .gov website or by calling 119 on how to order a self-test kit.