

Important information for WHT Staff

Additional Information for Walsall Healthcare Trust staff self-testing for coronavirus using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD)

Date: 20th November 2020

Dear Colleague,

Staff have been asking for regular staff testing for all, and we are now pleased to be able to offer this to you. You will now have received a asymptomatic self- test kit and you should use the User Guide (A5 Booklet) also provided to assist you in taking and reporting the result of these tests twice weekly at home before leaving for work.

If you do not have a copy of the User Guide, it can be found by clicking the link below which will take you to a page which has a video tutorial on how to use the kit as well as the PDF user guide:

<https://learninghub.nhs.uk/self-swab>

Should you feel that you are unable to perform the test yourself and require support, please advise your line manager who will be able to find peer support for you.

These test kits have been assigned to our patient facing staff members only, and we are trusting our staff to use them as intended. These kits **must not** be used to test other household members or friends, nor should they be sold for any personal financial gain.

Important: Please disregard any manufacturer instructions included in the box as these are not relevant to NHS staff and instead you are advised to follow the guidance in the User Guide we have provided or found via the link above.

Testing Frequency

We are not specifying any exact dates for when you should take these test due to the variety of shift patterns our staff work. However our recommendations are the following:

Staff should test themselves twice a week before they leave home to travel to work – every three to four days – to fit with shift patterns and leave requirements – for example, Wednesday and Sunday, or Monday and Thursday. If they are participating in research studies where the frequency of testing is not weekly (eg every two weeks or monthly) they should undertake twice-weekly self-testing. For example, staff members participating in the SIREN study and having testing every two weeks should also be part of the twice-weekly self-testing if they are a patient-facing member of staff.

Reporting of Test Results:

It is a regulatory requirement for our organisation to report staffing testing numbers and results in regards to the roll-out of these kits. Rather than using the paper based reporting template on the last page of the User Guide, our IT colleagues have developed a secure online portal for staff to access and upload their test results as soon as they are indicated on the test kit. This portal can be accessed here www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/LFDStaffSelfTesting

If anyone has any problems recording their test results via the online portal, please notify us by emailing us at lfdstaffselftesting@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk . In this instance only, please record your results on the paper form in the user guide until someone gets back to you to resolve your portal access issues.

Anyone who has been provided with a test kit and who has not subsequently submitted their test results will be followed up.

What to do if you receive a positive test result for the self-test kit:

If you receive a positive test result you must immediately inform your line manager, who will update ESR to reflect you are off-duty and self- isolating.

You must also immediately call 119 to request a Pillar 2 PCR test and phone OH where a positive result is confirmed.

Your support in using these kits as part of our organisations defence against the current Covid-19 pandemic is vital.



Richard Beeken
Chief Executive