

Dear colleagues,

UPDATED GUIDANCE ON TWICE WEEKLY ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

1. This letter notifies staff and managers on a change to the twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing kit for testing healthcare workers. These kits will transition from Innova manufactured testing kits to Orient Gene effective from 16 August 2021.
2. Please be advised that the MHRA use case exemption for distribution of Innova boxes of 25 LFD tests for Covid-19 self-testing expired on June 28th 2021. Kits that are already in circulation remain valid for testing and can be used beyond this date. Therefore we will continue to distribute the remaining boxes of Innova 25's until no stock remains at which point Orient Gene will be supplied. Please note, we need Boards to distribute and utilise their residual stocks of Innova 25's prior to supplying Orient Gene to HCWs, to ensure that we are not left with large stocks of tests that we can no longer use for other purposes.
3. The Orient Gene self-test is a **nasal only process** which gives a result in 15-20 minutes.
4. Orient Gene tests kits will come in boxes of 7's and they will be distributed via NHS National Services Scotland (NHS NSS) to Health Boards and Primary Care Practices/ Pharmacies as per current arrangements.
5. For more information on the changes to kits, please refer to the updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), FAQs and online guidance available [here](#). This will ensure that staff know how to undertake their test and report their result, and access a confirmatory PCR test if their LFD test is positive, as per current local processes.
6. In addition, we would like to highlight that the "*Its Kind to Remind*" campaign has been updated and now includes posters, table talkers and social media messaging in relation to asymptomatic testing (annex). These materials have been sent to Health

DL (2021) 26
16 August 2021

Addresses

Chairs,
Chief Executives
HR Directors,
Directors of Public Health
Medical Directors
Primary Care Leads
Directors of Pharmacy
Directors of Dentistry
Optometric Advisors
All Independent Contractors
(Dental, Pharmacy, General
Practice and Optometry)
Board LFD Leads
LFD SPOCs
PCR Testing SPOCs,
IRIC
TODG

Enquiries to:

Scottish Government
Health Workforce
Workforce Practice
GR
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

E-mail:
HealthWorkforceHub@gov.scot

Board LFD testing leads as well as Board Communication and Marketing leads.

7. This replaces the letter that was issued to NHS Chief Executives on 07 April 2021 detailing the further expansion of healthcare worker asymptomatic LFD testing pathway.
8. Regular testing of asymptomatic healthcare workers remains a key intervention in reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission in healthcare and other settings via early identification of cases and ensuring positive members of staff can self-isolate quickly and contact tracing can commence.
9. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued engagement and work to date on the implementation of the asymptomatic LFD testing programme, and for continuing to promote uptake of LFD testing among healthcare workers. Thank you to all staff for participating in the testing programme in order to keep them, their colleagues, and their patients safe.

Yours sincerely,



DR GREGOR SMITH
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



PROFESSOR JASON LEITCH CBE
NATIONAL CLINICAL DIRECTOR



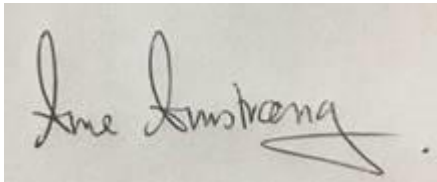
PROFESSOR NICOLA STEEDMAN
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



TOM FERRIS
CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER



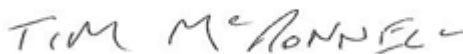
ALISON STRATH
INTERIM CHIEF PHARMACEUTICAL OFFICER



ANNE ARMSTRONG
DEPUTY CHIEF NURSING OFFICER



GILLIAN RUSSELL
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH WORKFORCE



TIM MCDONNELL
DIRECTOR PRIMARY CARE

Annex – “It’s Kind to Remind” communication assets including asymptomatic testing toolkit.

Please see below the updated ‘It’s Kind to Remind’ toolkit, now featuring the asymptomatic testing assets.

Page 4 'how you can support' includes the link to download all campaign assets including the asymptomatic testing assets. These have been shared with your Board Communications and LFD Testing Leads.



21-22 - Test and
Protect - Healthcare V