

Frequently Asked Questions on Lateral Flow Device testing in Sutton care homes

Please see some of the questions we have been asked below and send any further questions to publichealth@sutton.gov.uk

What if our home doesn't want to complete LFD visitor testing?

Contact the LBS Public Health team for further advice : publichealth@sutton.gov.uk

Can we use the LFDs to test staff and residents?

Currently as at 16 December 2020, LFD test kits are only available for testing visitors and visiting professionals. The use of LFD with staff and residents will be issued in further guidance.

What if visitors refuse LFD testing?

We recommend you make alternative visiting arrangements for visitors who have not been LFD tested, based on the national [guidance](#). Please see the Sutton LFD testing local guidance [flowchart](#) to help you prepare in advance and ensure you have a clear picture of the expectations from your potential visitors.

Does the maximum two named visitors still apply given that visitors will be tested before entering?

The guidance on safe visiting states that visitors should be limited to a maximum of 2 constant visitors wherever possible to limit the overall number of visitors to the care home and/or to the individual, and the consequent risk of disease transmission from multiple different routes. This is still in place. You should carry out a risk assessment to what works for your home. For example, one home has put some flexibility around this rule for individual cases. You should speak to your families and decide together, keeping in mind the time required to carry out the tests and other things that are going on.

How do I access the online registration for the LFD tests?

Please use this link to register LFD tests: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> If any problems, please contact DHSC by calling 119.

If we get the COVID-19 vaccine, do we need to continue testing?

Yes, testing continues for now until further guidance has been provided by the DHSC.

How can I get help with training and other advice for LFD testing?

Contact the LBS Public Health team for further advice: publichealth@sutton.gov.uk

Will visits be affected by the Tier 3 restrictions?

Visiting relatives in care homes in all tiers can continue to take place. Visits should be held with social distance and PPE in place, outside or in other COVID-secure visiting areas in line with the care home visiting policy.

Where LFD testing of visitors is available, residents may be able to have indoor visits with physical contact, from up to two visitors each week in all tiers by Christmas. If a visitor has a negative test, is wearing appropriate PPE, and following other infection control measures,

then it may be possible for visitors to have physical contact with their loved one, such as providing personal care, holding hands and hugging.

When can visits to care homes be restricted?

In the event of an outbreak in a care home, the home should immediately stop visiting (except in exceptional circumstances such as end of life) to protect vulnerable residents, staff and visitors. There may be local policy and outbreak management arrangements, which will be important to follow. These restrictions should continue until the outbreak is confirmed as over. At that point visiting may resume with the usual infection prevention and control measures and any enhancements required due to any risks identified following the recent outbreak.

I haven't received any LFD test kits yet but I am keen to begin testing visitors in time for Christmas.

Contact the LBS Public Health team for further advice: publichealth@sutton.gov.uk

Who arranges the confirmatory PCR test for a visitor who tests positive using the LFD test?

When you receive your LFD kits you will also receive universal kits for confirmatory PCR testing. Provide the visitor with a PCR test kit and ask them to test on site. They will need to [register the kit online](#) using the testing yourself at home instructions. After registration is complete, you will need to schedule a courier to pick up the test kit and the visitor must go home to isolate immediately, avoiding public transport and wearing a face mask.