

Care Home outbreak testing flowchart: staff and residents

A new variant of concern may affect testing procedures: for full instructions follow the [COVID-19 adult social care services guidance](#).

1 Have there been 2 or more positive COVID-19 cases in a 14-day period?

NO **No positive tests** Continue **regular asymptomatic** staff testing. If any staff member or resident becomes symptomatic, they should take an **LFD test** on day **0** and then on day **2**. If either of these are positive, follow the guidance in the [IPC - COVID-19 Supplement](#).

Positive case If there is one positive case in the home, staff should conduct rapid response testing for 5 days. If there are further cases within the 5-day period:

1. Continue testing, but do not extend the rapid response testing period beyond 5 days.

2. Contact the HPT (or if applicable, your community infection prevention and control team, LA or CCG).

Outbreak Testing

Day 0/1: all staff and residents take PCR* and LFD tests.

Days 4 to 7: staff and residents take one PCR* and one LFD on one of these days.

Day 7 onwards: staff continue regular twice weekly symptomatic LFDs.

YES **Contact the HPT**
An outbreak is 2 or more positive or suspected linked cases of COVID-19 that occur in the same setting within a 14-day period.

Contact the HPT (or if applicable, your community infection prevention and control team, LA or CCG) if you suspect an outbreak.

2 Has it been 10 days since the last member of staff or resident tested positive for COVID-19 or experienced symptoms during the outbreak?

NO **Outbreak continues** Continue regular asymptomatic staff testing and continue LFD testing any newly symptomatic individuals.

YES **Outbreak recovery testing** All staff and residents conduct a PCR* test.

NO **Were any new positives found?**

YES

HPT (or if applicable, your community infection prevention and control team, LA or CCG) will advise you can lift outbreak restrictions and follow normal testing.

HPT (or if applicable, your community infection prevention and control team, LA or CCG) will advise that the outbreak restrictions should continue until no further positives are found.

3 Have there been any positive cases in the home after outbreak recovery testing?

NO **Regular staff asymptomatic testing continues.** If any staff or resident becomes newly symptomatic, they should take an LFD test when they become symptomatic. If this test is negative, take another test 48 hours later. If either of these are positive, follow the guidance in the [IPC-COVID-19 supplement](#).

YES This should be classed as a new potential outbreak and the care home should follow the process from step 1.



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COVID-19 testing in adult social care guidance

* If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, their testing may be different. Read the IPC COVID-19 supplement for further information.