UK Health Security Agency

Report an outbreak using combined COVID-19 and flu LFD tests

For CQC-registered adult residential and nursing care homes in the South West pilot.

If you suspect an outbreak of acute respiratory infection (ARI), report it even if you do not have a UKHSA combined LFD kit.

1 TEST	2 REPORT	3 REPLACE
Use only during an ARI outbreak An outbreak is 2 or more linked residents who develop ARI symptoms within 5 days. Test up to 5 of the most recently symptomatic residents. The kit identifies influenza A, influenza B, and COVID-19.	**Report every outbreak and every result** **Use the outbreak webpage or scan the QR code.** https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-an-outbreak-of-acute-respiratory-infection-in-an-adult-social-care-setting Report **positive, negative, and void results**, including results from other kits, GP testing, or hospital testing. Report even if no testing was possible. After reporting, you will receive a tailored advice email. Read it for instructions on repeat or further testing. UKHSA may also contact you depending on risk. If 4 or fewer symptomatic residents have all tested negative, repeat testing on those residents the following day and test any residents with new symptoms, **up to 5 people in total**. If any of these results are **positive for influenza A or B** do not submit a new outbreak report; Call the HPT on 0300 303 8162.	**Replacement kits are automatic** After reporting, replacement kits are sent automatically. Allow up to 2 weeks. Keep them for the next outbreak, not for repeat testing in the current outbreak unless advised.

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Frequently asked questions

Keep this page with the flowchart for use during an outbreak.

- **Can residents without symptoms be tested?** No. Use UKHSA combination tests only in an ARI outbreak and only for symptomatic residents.
- **Who else should be informed?** Liaise with the GP of residents who are unwell and share their LFD result.
- **What if someone is severely unwell?** Seek urgent medical help as usual through the GP, NHS 111, or 999.
- **What if more than 5 residents are symptomatic?** After 5 residents have been tested with UKHSA combination kits, test any additional symptomatic residents who are eligible for COVID-19 treatments using NHS COVID-19 LFD tests from a local pharmacy.
  Treatment eligibility: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/treatments-for-covid-19/ (or search NHS.uk for: COVID-19 treatments).
- **Are the tests for staff?** No. They are for symptomatic care home residents. Symptomatic staff should not be at work.
- **How can we obtain additional NHS COVID-19 tests?** Use the NHS pharmacy finder. If tests are difficult to obtain, contact the local integrated care board.
  Pharmacy finder: https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies/find-a-pharmacy-that-offers-free-COVID-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests/ (or search NHS.uk for: find a pharmacy that offers free COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests).
- **What if all residents have negative results?** If you have tested 4 or fewer unwell residents, repeat the tests on these residents the next day and test any residents with new symptoms up to a maximum of 5 people in total. If a resident eligible for covid-19 treatment tests negative on 2 consecutive days using UKHSA combined kits, test again on day 3 using an NHS COVID-19 LFD test. Three consecutive days of negative results are needed before COVID-19 can be ruled out.
- **Can a positive combined LFD result support access to COVID-19 treatment?** Yes. Current COVID-19 treatment guidance applies. Follow the local pathway for clinical assessment through the residents' GP or NHS 111.
- **What PPE should be worn when taking a test?** Wear disposable gloves, an apron, a fluid-resistant surgical mask and suitable eye or face protection.
  PPE requirements: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65ba62fcc75d300012ca0fd9/A3_PPE_requirements_table_FINAL.pdf (or search GOV.UK for: adult social care respiratory infection PPE requirements table).
- **What if tests are missing or have not arrived?** Allow up to 2 weeks. Check reception, the main office, delivery and storage areas, other units or buildings, and with staff working alternative, night and weekend shifts. If still missing, email swhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk with the care home name, address, postcode, and CQC number, confirming these checks were completed. If an outbreak is underway, report it using the outbreak webpage without waiting for LFDs.
- **What if the tests have expired?** Put expired tests in general waste. If an outbreak is underway, report it even if there are no in-date kits. For a non-urgent replacement request, email swhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk with the care home name, address, postcode, and CQC number.
- **Where can I find more detailed information?** Use the GOV.UK guidance: SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A+B antigen combo rapid tests for COVID-19 and 2 types of flu A and B during an outbreak of acute respiratory infection in adult social care residential and nursing homes: a pilot in some areas of England - GOV.UK (or search GOV.UK for: combined COVID-19 and flu tests adult social care homes pilot).