

Updates to guidance

COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care.

On 3rd April, DHSC and UKHSA released an updated version of the [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care](#). This now includes the testing guidance and the old [COVID-19 testing guidance](#) has been withdrawn.

Please see full guidance using the above links if you have any queries.

Summary of changes with effect from 3rd April 2023:

- Symptomatic testing is now advised only for a) staff and service users who are eligible for COVID-19 treatments and b) during suspected outbreaks in residential or nursing care homes.
- Staff or residents with symptoms but who are not tested and are not part of an outbreak can return to their normal activities once they do not have a temperature and they feel well enough to do so
- Staff and service users who test positive for COVID-19 can return to their usual activities after 5 days if they feel well and no longer have a high temperature. Testing is no longer routinely required for individuals to return to normal activities. If they still have symptoms, they should avoid contact with people at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19
- **Outbreaks in care homes** – If an outbreak is suspected, the provider should inform the health protection team (HPT). However, they are not required to wait for advice from the HPT (or other relevant local partner) if they feel they are able to initiate the risk assessment independently. Further support will be available from the local HPT (or other local partner according to local protocols) at the care home's request.

Only the first 5 residents with symptoms of a respiratory infection will be asked to take an LFD test to identify if there is an outbreak of COVID-19. This is in addition to ongoing testing for symptomatic individuals eligible for COVID-19 treatments.

There will no longer be any PCR testing in care settings.

There will no longer be any whole home testing in outbreaks or any rapid response LFD testing for staff.

Outbreak measures can be lifted 5 days after the last suspected or confirmed case.

Health protection teams (HPTs) can advise wider testing where there are specific concerns.

- **Visiting arrangements in care homes** - In the event of an outbreak of COVID-19, each resident should (as a minimum) be able to have one visitor at a time inside the care home. This visitor does not need to be the same person throughout the outbreak. They do not need to be a family member and could be a volunteer or befriender. Additionally, end-of-life visiting should be supported in all circumstances.

There should not be any restrictions on visits out for individuals who are not symptomatic or who have not tested positive in any circumstance.

- **Admission of care home residents** - Those being admitted from hospital will take an LFD test within 48 hours before discharge. No requirement for PCR tests.

Admissions from the community are no longer advised to test.

- **Ordering tests** -Residential care homes and higher risk extra care or supported living establishments, may order LFD tests on an organisational basis to provide tests to those [eligible for COVID-19 treatments](#). In addition, care homes will need LFD tests in case an outbreak is suspected.

Dedicated test ordering routes for other adult social care settings will be closed e.g day care centres, home care, social care workers, personal assistants, and shared lives carers. [Individuals eligible for COVID-19 treatments](#) in these settings can access via [GOV.UK](#)