

Asymptomatic Screening for Covid-19 at DC10 and DC20 Frequently asked questions

Updated 16 August 2021

This document includes the answers to frequently asked questions about our asymptomatic screening programme.

In January 2021 we began rolling out the Lateral Flow antigen test. This document also contains specific information about the Lateral Flow test.

[General questions](#)

[Your consent and privacy](#)

[Arranging and taking your test](#)

[Your results](#)

General questions

What screening are we introducing at DC10 and DC20?

We are introducing Covid-19 asymptomatic screening, which means that we will be offering swab tests that can detect the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19, even if people have no symptoms.

Why are we introducing asymptomatic screening?

The health, safety and wellbeing of our people is our highest priority. Asymptomatic screening is being introduced as an additional measure to keep DC10 and DC20 Covid-secure. This is part of our proactive approach to reducing risk to our colleagues and their local communities.

Around half of people infected with Covid-19 develop symptoms, such as a high temperature, cough, or a loss or change in their sense of smell or taste. These people may be infectious before symptoms appear (pre-symptomatic). There are also some carriers of coronavirus who show no symptoms and are unaware that they are infected (asymptomatic), this is thought to be up to 1 in 3.

We know that in communities with no measures in place, people with Covid-19 infection who exhibit no symptoms can still spread the virus to others. Whilst we are confident that the measures we already have in place, like social distancing and screens, significantly reduce the spread of the virus from people without symptoms, we need to reduce this risk further by introducing the asymptomatic screening programme.

Which colleagues will be involved in the programme ?

The programme is open to anyone working at DC10 or DC20 on a regular basis, including all permanent staff, all on-site contractors, and all flexible workers. We are aiming to test every colleague who agrees to participate twice per week.

How long are we planning to run this programme?

The programme will run indefinitely but will be reviewed at regular intervals in line with our other Covid-secure controls.

What kind of test is being used?

Lateral flow testing is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of Covid-19, but who may still be spreading the virus. The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes. We are using rapid lateral flow antigen tests alongside standard lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. These tests play a different, but crucial role in the fight against Covid-19.

Do the tests have to be kept in specific conditions?

Tests can be stored in typical home / warehouse conditions; they should be kept dry, do not need refrigeration, be kept out of direct sunlight and not be exposed to heat. They should be kept out of reach of children.

Why is asymptomatic screening only for colleagues at DC10 / DC20?

As stated above, there are many measures in place at both DC10 and DC20 to ensure the workplace is Covid-secure. However, due to the nature of the work we carry out, we wanted to add a further level of control.

Homeworking is not an option for us and thus we have agreed to run the asymptomatic screening programme to provide additional protection.

Can I participate if I have already had Covid-19?

We do not know how long immunity to Covid-19 lasts or know of the risk of asymptomatic reinfection. We are aware, however, that some individuals with Covid-19 continue to spread the virus a few weeks after infection. Colleagues who have already had Covid-19 will therefore be eligible to participate in the programme, but only if 90 days have passed since their positive test.

Can I take the test if I have symptoms of Covid-19 or should I book a separate appointment?

Anyone with the most common symptoms of Covid (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) should not be swabbed as part of asymptomatic screening. Instead, they should arrange for an urgent appointment at an [NHS testing facility](#).

Is participation in the programme mandatory?

No. Participation in the programme is voluntary, but we encourage everyone to take part. We believe that the majority of colleagues will want to do so, to help keep themselves, their friends, family, colleagues, and the wider community safe.

Will I be penalised if I choose not to participate?

Absolutely not, taking a test is actively encouraged but entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you will not be treated any differently to other colleagues.

Colleagues who decline to participate will still need to inform their manager if Covid-19 is detected in their household and they will be expected to follow guidelines on isolation as advised by [track and trace](#).

Can I use the tests for my symptomatic or asymptomatic family members?

No. Staff and family members should not share the kits. Anyone who has symptoms should access PCR tests via the national program in the normal way.

Should I continue testing after I've received the Covid-19 vaccine?

Yes, you should continue to test even if they have had the vaccine.

Where do I do the test?

You should conduct the test at home if possible.

We were already being tested through the PCR regimes – is this replaced by lateral flow tests?

Staff that have already consented to take part in the PCR program will be automatically enrolled in the lateral flow testing regime. The PCR testing will still be accessible and will be used to support the lateral flow program.

Will this testing regime remove the need for staff who have been exposed to a positive Covid-19 case to self-isolate?

Lateral Flow Testing is currently not used for this purpose. Self-isolation rules have changed. You no longer have to self-isolate in certain situations. Government self-isolation advice should always be followed, up to date information can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Can the period of isolation following contact tracing be shortened through use of this test?

No. Self-isolation rules have changed. You no longer have to self-isolate in certain situations. Government self-isolation advice should always be followed, up to date information can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Your consent and privacy

What personal details will I be asked for when I sign up?

The minimum possible personal data will be used by Cambridge Assessment to facilitate ordering your tests and ensuring traceability of packs issued in case of product recall. Limited personal information (name and contact details) will be used to register participating colleagues with the programme and allow access to individual tests.

How will Cambridge Assessment use my data?

Any data provided for the screening programme, will be made available to a small team within the organisation, who have responsibility for administering the screening programme and ensuring appropriate measures are in place to safeguard other staff and visitors.

All colleagues involved with the administering of the screening programme have been reminded of their duty of confidentiality and have all refreshed their data protection training to ensure they fully understand their responsibilities

Result data is transmitted directly to NHS Test and Trace. Results should also be advised to your line manager as per any other absence and will be treated in similar confidence.

How will my personal data be used and protected by the Government?

Your data will be stored in line with the [Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016](#). This means information is kept for up to 8 years before it is disposed of.

The Department for Health and Social Care publishes a large amount of data that is available for use by the media. This can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- <https://digital.nhs.uk/dashboards/progression#dashboard>
- <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/testing?areaType=nation&areaName=England>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-weekly-reports>

Data that has not been formally published in the public domain, either on one of the above sites, or through discussion in the House of Commons has typically not been made available.

Arranging and taking your test

How do I get my tests?

If you would like to participate, the first step is to fill in a Participation Consent Form, if you've already done this as part of our earlier programs this does not need to be repeated. This confirms that you agree to participate and understand the terms and conditions of participating.

Once you have completed the form you will be contacted by the GPaO Admin team to collect a test kit that can last for up to 3 weeks.

You can collect further tests once your supply has been exhausted, you will receive a reminder to collect your test kits if you have consented and have yet to pick up your kits. If you require further tests (because of wastage) before you are re-issued further kits please contact GPaO Admin.

How frequently do I need to test?

You should take the test twice weekly at home 3-4 days apart. If you work part-time or have irregular attendance, you should still take a test twice weekly to minimise community risk.

Eg. Monday start test Sunday pm / Monday am before you attend site. Test again Wed / Thurs.

Should I continue swabbing during annual leave?

Staff may continue to swab while on annual leave of longer than a week, but it is not a requirement.

Where do I pick up my test kit?

You will be able to pick up your test kit from your department manager. Kits will be available if you have consented and made available for replenishment after 3 weeks. If you need a kit earlier, please contact GPaO Admin.

How long does the test take to perform?

The test should no more than 30 minutes of your time.

Is the test safe to perform?

Yes. Provided you wash your hands before and after you take the test and follow the usual safety measures at DC10 and DC20, the test should cause you no harm.

Will I get time back for undertaking the test at home?

The test should take no longer than 5 minutes to undertake, with a 30 minute wait for results, no time will be granted back.

What should I do with the used test kits?

You can safely dispose of the test items in normal household waste, follow the disposal advice provided with the kits.

I am a flexible worker at GPaO sites, what do I do if my assignment finishes and I have left over tests?

If you have any left over tests please retain as a future assignment will mean that you can use the remaining tests up until the expiry date of the kits. Under no circumstance should tests be given or sold to anyone else. If you are unlikely to return to any of our sites then you can use the tests as you wish or discard the unwanted tests in general waste after first pouring away the buffer solution.

What happens if the buffer solution is accidentally consumed?

As set out in the manufacturer's safety instructions, the buffer solution is not hazardous; however, if accidentally ingested, a medical practitioner should be informed.

I've spilled / run out of the extraction buffer fluid - what should I do?

Use up what you have left, contact GPaO Admin and a new kit will be issued.

Can we get the lateral flow guidance leaflet in other languages?

There are no plans to translate the lateral flow guidance leaflet.

Your test results

How are the results of these tests be reported?

Full step by step details of how to report your Lateral Flow can be found in the pack information sheet. Recording of all results (positive, negative, invalid) from lateral flow devices (and PCR) is a statutory requirement. You will then need to report your result to the NHS using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

PCR Test results are issued automatically by the lab following analysis.

How will we be notified of results?

Your LFD result will appear on the device itself, around 30 minutes after you apply your sample. If you have to have a PCR test to confirm your Lateral Flow Test result, the results will be sent by text or email. If you use the NHS COVID-19 app, you may also get your result in the app.

What do I do if my Lateral Flow Device test result is positive?

If you return a positive lateral flow test result you should self-isolate straight away – [check if people you live with need to self isolate](#). Record your result at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>, report your test result to your line manager and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

A confirmatory retest is required for a positive lateral flow self-test. You will need to arrange a PCR test through the National Test & Trace programme: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If you do not get a PCR test within 2 days of a positive rapid lateral flow test at a test site, you will need to self-isolate for 10 full days even if you get a negative PCR result.

Until the results of this test are known isolation should continue. Follow the advice you're given when you get the result and keep your line manager informed. If the outcome of the PCR is positive, you currently must self-isolate for minimum 10 days after the date of your first test or after your symptoms began (if earlier). Accurate guidance can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

If your PCR test is negative you and your household can return to your normal routine.

How do I identify a colleague as a close contact?

A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic or received their asymptomatic test result, or up to 10 days from onset of symptoms. This period is when that person could be infectious to others. A contact can be:

- People who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for Covid-19
- A person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, including:
 - being coughed on
 - having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
 - contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact.
- A person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 for more than 15 minutes (either as one-off or added up over one day)
- A person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

Where an interaction between 2 people has taken place through a Perspex (or equivalent) screen, this would not be considered sufficient contact, provided that there has been no other contact such

as any of those indicated above.

What do I do if my test result is negative?

If your test result is negative, you should come into work as usual following the standard health and safety procedures. You should follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading the virus](#).

What do I do if my test result is inconclusive?

If your test result is inconclusive, do not worry, take another test to get a valid result. If the lateral flow test result is invalid a second time, you should reorganise a PCR test through the NHS.

If I do not participate but my colleague tests positive, am I expected to self-isolate?

Current measures in place at Cambridge Assessment limit contact with others by implementing strict rules on social distancing, placing barriers and changing walking routes, so it is unlikely you will have had close contact at work. Guidance on self-isolation has changed, government guidance should always be followed: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>, as with any absence please keep your line manager up to date.

If I test positive, will the rest of my team be told I have it?

The rest of the team will be informed that someone has a confirmed case of Covid-19, but only if they have been directly affected and are required to self-isolate. We will not reveal the identity / identities of any individual(s) that have tested positive.

If I test positive, who else will be informed?

The results of screening tests will be made available to a small team within the organisation and relevant support departments, in line with our process for dealing with positive cases. This ensures that any necessary infection control measures are put in place in the buildings.

Individual test results will be reported to Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace and data is secured as described above.

Should colleagues who have been in contact with a staff member who tests positive with lateral flow be tested while the confirmatory PCR test result is pending?

The organisation uses the same definition of close contact as defined by the government. Upon reporting a positive result any colleagues that have been in close contact should be identified so they we can assess risk whilst awaiting the PCR result, we'll apply the principles as set out by the government with respect to who should and shouldn't self-isolate. If the PCR result confirms the result the advice given by Test and Trace applies. If this test is negative, line management should be informed so that this information can be shared with any colleagues identified at the initial stage. Anyone isolating as a precaution can continue to use the lateral flow tests assuming they are not displaying symptoms.

I had a positive PCR Covid-19 test, when should I start the lateral flow antigen tests again?

If you tested positive for you can recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken. You need to liaise with GPaO Admin to track the date at which the retesting should start.

What is the risk of false positive result?

We estimate that the risk of a false positive test will be less than 4/1,000, any positive will be validated by a lab-tested PCR.