

Sent to All SW Optical Contractors and SW LOCs

Dear Colleagues

Following on from the email sent yesterday with regard to Lateral Flow testing please find attached a copy of the letter that has been sent to all Primary Care Contractors, this includes a link to the Single Operating Procedure (SOP) and a staff leaflet, for ease please find attached a copy of both of these documents for reference.

The letter confirms the following:-

Process for ordering:-

- Primary Care Services England (PCSE) will begin to invite primary care contractors to order lateral flow testing devices this week
- Only order test kits once you receive an invitation from PCSE, please notify the person who manages your PCSE orders and is your PCSE main contact
- Invitations to order will be staggered across the country to ensure a smooth ordering process, this means that you may not receive an invitation this week
- Following receipt of an invitation, you need to log on and complete your order as quickly as possible. The final closing date for orders across all contractors will be **Wednesday 30 December**.
- You need to order one box for every patient-facing employee delivering NHS services, this should include any temporary patient-facing staff or staff employed through an agency or other kind of temporary arrangements (e.g. locums)
- Delivery for most contractors that have placed orders is expected to start from early January. When received you should distribute one box to each member of patient-facing staff as soon as possible after delivery. Each box will contain 25 lateral flow tests, enough for 12 weeks.
- If you do not have access to the PCSE online portal please contact PCSE at www.pcse.england.nhs.uk/contact-us

Process for use:-

- Patient-facing staff are asked to test themselves twice weekly and report their results to Public Health England (PHE), via the NHS Digital online platform. **Please be aware that it is a statutory requirement to report all results, including negative, positive or void.** This platform will be available from the end of this week.
- The manufacturer's instructions for use are included in the box and are detailed and very technical. These **do not need** to be followed as NHS staff are using the test in a slightly different way and should follow the NHS staff instruction leaflet instead (attached), which has been agreed with experts and discussed with the MHRA.
- Testing of primary care staff initially, using the Innova lateral flow antigen device, will take place twice weekly. Lateral flow antigen testing has a lower sensitivity than qRT PCR, the testing frequency is to mitigate this. For any positive result, the staff member should get an urgent confirmatory qRT PCR test performed.
- An NHS staff instruction leaflet on self-testing with lateral flow devices is available (attached) and you are encouraged to familiarise yourselves with the leaflet and SOP and share information with your staff as appropriate.

- Anyone who tests positive with a lateral flow antigen test will be required to follow government guidelines, self-isolate with their household and get a confirmatory PCR test.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information after reviewing the SOPs, please email england.covid-lfd@nhs.net