

Dear Colleagues,

Healthcare Workers to revert back to twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing.

This letter follows on from [DL \(2021\) 51](#), and asks healthcare workers (HCW) and patient facing primary care staff (general practice, pharmacy, optometry, dentistry) to reduce their frequency of LFD testing from daily back to twice weekly.

The return to pre-Omicron levels of LFD testing is based upon a reduction in COVID-19 prevalence in the community as well as a reduction in the number nosocomial clusters. The COVID-19 Nosocomial Review Group have considered and are supportive of HCWs moving from daily to twice weekly LFD testing.

All staff are reminded to record LFD results (positive, negative and void) on the portal [Welcome - COVID Testing Portal \(service-now.com\)](#).

For more information on the above, please refer to our frequently asked questions or standard operating procedures, both of which can be found at the following link, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): asymptomatic staff testing in NHS Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#).

Guidance on carrying out LFD tests can be found [on TURAS](#).

Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing for social care staff

Social care staff are asked to continue with their current testing regime of testing prior to each shift.

Social care colleagues and Public Health Scotland are considering what, if any, changes there will be with regards to asymptomatic testing for social care staff and will publish their own directors letter once this review has been completed.

Update on self-isolation for health and social care staff

In January updates were made to the Policy Framework regarding self-isolation guidance for Health and Social Care Staff, as a result of changes to the COVID-19 self-isolation guidance for the general population.

From the

Chief Nursing Officer

22 February 2022

DL (2022) 05

For action

NHS Scotland Chairs,
NHS Scotland Chief Executives,
Chief Officers Health and Social
Care Partnerships
Local Authorities
HR Directors,
Medical Directors,
Nurse Directors,
Primary Care Leads,
Directors of Pharmacy,
Directors of Public Health,
Directors of Dentistry,
Optometric Advisors,
All Independent Contractors (Dental,
Pharmacy, General Practice and
Optometry),
Infection Control Managers
Infection Control Doctors
Infection Control Nurses
Estate Management

Enquiries

Scottish Government
Directorate for Chief Nursing
Officer
E-mail: cno@gov.scot

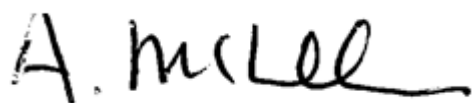
More information defining the most recent self-isolation updates can be found in Annex A of [DL \(2022\) 01](#).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

We ask that staff continue to implement IPC measures as a key safeguard against COVID-19 and other transmittable infections and continue to follow the guidance contained in the Scottish Winter (21/22), Respiratory Infections in Health and Care Settings Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) [Addendum](#).

Lastly, and importantly, we would like to offer our thanks for your continued resilience and ongoing commitment to supporting your patients and colleagues during the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. McMahon'.

Professor Alex McMahon
Chief Nursing Officer