



Liverpool University Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

COVID-SMART NHS Staff Testing

Participant information

IRAS Project ID: 311842

LIVING OUR VALUES



SMART testing

At Liverpool University Hospitals Foundation Trust (LUHFT), staff attending for a COVID-19 PCR test will be invited to follow a new testing process. As part of the new process, we will be working alongside the University of Liverpool and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to understand how much safety can be added by taking two types of lateral flow tests (LFTs) instead of one. All LUHFT staff who attend for a PCR swab will be asked to participate in this study to help improve patient and staff safety.

With national guidance around COVID-19 constantly changing, it is important that we continue to ensure the safety of our patients, our colleagues, and our workforce. Therefore, we are enhancing Trust protocols for staff who either have COVID-19 or are in direct contact with someone, such as a family member, who has COVID-19.

The enhanced testing protocol, which includes two different daily LFTs, will provide more certainty that staff are not infected with the COVID-19 virus prior to attending work.

As this is a new protocol it is important that we collect information to see how it is working. All staff will follow the same protocol, but you will be asked for your consent to use your data for the research that is needed to know how the protocol is working. To find out how your information will be used, please read "What will happen to my information" below.

Why are we doing this?

Fully vaccinated people are now allowed to return to work after two consecutive days of negative lateral flow tests (days 5 and 6 after being exposed and becoming infected) instead of isolating for 10 days. This policy change can relieve NHS staffing pressures; however, it is not known how many consecutive days of negative lateral flow tests are optimal. It is also not known whether nose only or nose plus throat swabs give different results.

The data generated by this study will provide essential evidence about which swabs to use, and how many days of negative lateral flow tests are optimal for assuring patient safety, with regards to both preventing infections and ensuring staffing levels are sufficient.

Following your PCR test at the swab hub, you will need to do an additional home PCR on day 1 and day 5 and continue with your twice daily LFT testing. You will need to do this regardless of your PCR result.

What are the risks?

Participating will not affect your occupational health activities and the use of lateral flow devices is considered safe.

What will happen to my information?

We will need to use information from you for this this research project. This information will include:

- ♦ your name
- ♦ NHS number
- ♦ contact details.

LUHFT will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead. We will keep all information about you safe and secure. The results from the tests you take at home will go into your NHS records where they are linked automatically to other information such as your age, sex and vaccination status in a secure NHS system (www.cipha.nhs.uk).

Research analysts are given only the basic data they need for this study and cannot know who you are. Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

If you agree to take part in this study, you will have the option to take part in future research using your data saved from this study.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information by emailing StaffCovidSwabbing@liverpoolft.nhs.uk.

What will I need to do?

You will receive a pack containing a daily instruction sheet (attached with this document) and 4 boxes of home lateral flow kits, each containing 7 tests. This gives you 2 tests for each day, to be taken at the same time for 10 days, with 8 tests spare to use at your discretion. Two boxes will have a nose only swab and the other two will have a nose plus throat swab. The pack will also contain 2 home PCR tests to be taken on Day 1 and Day 5 and should be posted back using a Royal Mail priority post box.

You will test yourself each morning according to the usual pack instructions and report the result as usual via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result - You should select that you are taking the test for your job, then select 'NHS', and then 'Acute Trust' and finally select 'Liverpool University Hospital Foundation Trust' as your workplace (please see blue instruction box on page 5 for step-by-step instructions).

You will be asked to scan the whole of the used lateral flow device with your phone, not just the QR code. This is because artificial intelligence reading of test results has been activated for LUHFT, and this extra service is not available to most NHS organisations yet.

You will also receive two PCR home test kits, to take on day 1 and day 5, which someone you know can post in any Royal Mail Priority post box - if this is not possible and you are not able to post the swab, please contact StaffCovidSwabbing@liverpoolft.nhs.uk or 07825 780 962 (weekdays 9.30 – 16.30, weekends 9.30 – 13.00) and collection from your home will be arranged where possible.

You may also be asked to take an additional test if you are continuing to test positive from day 5. This is to check if we are able to grow the virus from your sample and will help to understand the safety of returning to work, whilst still testing positive after the full isolation period. If you are selected, you will be contacted by the study team and if you agree arrangements will be made to provide you with the additional test kit.

All PCR and LFTs will be handled as per the standard testing routes. If you do provide an additional sample for viral culture, it will be pseudonymised so that researchers do not know your identity and sent to a lab in England. After the testing has been completed the sample will be destroyed.

How to take the tests

You will get a pack containing a daily instruction sheet detailing the order in which to take the tests for the next 10 days. This sheet is personal to you because the order in which tests are taken has been randomised to monitor how testing is working, without differences being just down to which swab is taken first. If you lose your daily instruction sheet, please contact StaffCovidSwabbing@liverpoolft.nhs.uk or 07825 780 962 (weekdays 9.30 – 16.30, weekends 9.30 – 13.00) to be issued with a new sheet.

Overleaf is what you should do on each of the 10 days.

Day	Action	Comments
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Go to walk-in swabbing hub at your hospital site ♦ Fill in on-line forms to register ♦ Have a PCR test, ♦ Consent, and pick up a testing pack ♦ Get your PCR result and follow the instructions in it about coming back to work if you are negative. 	<p>Use LUHFT referral system to register before or at the swabbing hub.</p> <p>If you don't want to take part in the study, you will get a PCR swab and you can order lateral flow tests on-line as per usual NHS protocol.</p> <p>If you consent to the study, you will receive a pack of home tests at the hub and the protocol you follow is the same as for any other NHS staff, apart from you will take some additional tests.</p>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Commence twice daily LFT at home as per pack instruction, ♦ Complete PCR swab at home, and post it. 	<p>Regardless of your PCR result you will take twice daily LFT for 10 days.</p> <p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 1 printed on the daily instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>Post your PCR swab in a Royal Mail priority post box. If you can't get to a priority post box, then please call 07825 780 962 (weekdays 9.30 – 16.30, weekends 9.30 – 13.00) or email StaffCovidSwabbing@liverpoolft.nhs.uk.</p> <p>Return to work if you have no symptoms, no positive test results and are fully vaccinated.</p>
2	Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 2 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>Return to work if you have no symptoms, no positive test results and are fully vaccinated.</p>
3	Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 3 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>Return to work if you have no symptoms, no positive test results and are fully vaccinated.</p>
4	Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 4 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>Return to work if you have no symptoms, no positive test results and are fully vaccinated.</p>

5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction ♦ Complete PCR swab at home, and post it. 	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 5 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>Post your PCR swab in a Royal Mail priority post box. If you can't get to a priority post box, then please call 07825 780 962 (weekdays 9.30 – 16.30, weekends 9.30 –13.00) or email StaffCovidSwabbing@liverpoolft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Return to work if you have no symptoms, no positive test results and are fully vaccinated.</p>
6	Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 6 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>If your past two days (5 and 6) 4 x LFTs are all negative and you feel well/better and you don't have a fever you can go to work.</p>
7	Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 7 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>If your 2 x LFTs are negative and you feel well/better, then go to work.</p>
8	Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 8 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>If your 2 x LFTs are negative and you feel well/better, then go to work.</p>
9	Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 9 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>If your 2 x LFTs are negative and you feel well/better, then go to work.</p>
10	Continue twice daily LFT as per pack instruction	<p>Upload your two LFT results via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result in the order for day 10 printed on the instruction sheet in your pack.</p> <p>If your 2 x LFTs are negative and you feel well/better, then go to work.</p>

Reporting your results

You should report your LFT results in the order you take them, as directed on the daily instruction sheet in your pack. The two different types of LFT kit are reported in the same way - using your phone to take a picture of the LFT around 20 minutes after you have used it.

Use the standard Government website for reporting LFT results:
www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

To make submitting your results easier, you can set up an account on the site so that you do not need to input all your details each time you record a result. When submitting your information, you will need to enter your NHS number. If you do not know your NHS number, you can find it here: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/find-nhs-number/>
If you have any problems accessing this service please ring 07825 780 962 (weekdays 9.30 – 16.30, weekends 9.30 – 13.00)

After you sign in at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result select

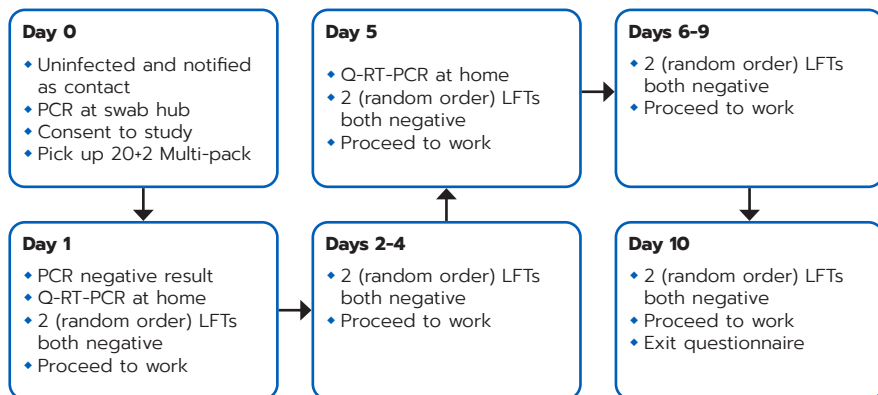
1. Reporting for “myself”
2. “England”
3. “Yes” to taking the test for your job
4. “It’s for the NHS...”
5. “Acute hospital trust”
6. Start typing in Liverpool and select “LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST” from the list that shows up
7. “Today”
8. Click the button to scan your used LFT device. The result will be read automatically and linked to your NHS records.

The at home PCR test will need to be posted via a Royal Mail priority post-box - if you are isolating you could ask somebody you know to post it for you, or we can arrange for it to be collected if this is not an option – call 07825 780 962 (weekdays 9.30 – 16.30, weekends 9.30 – 13.00) if you need this.

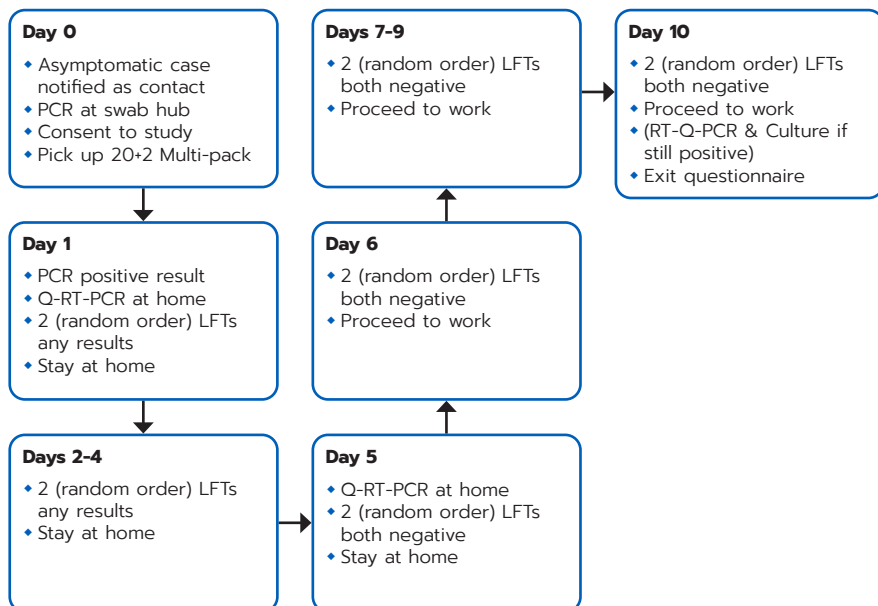
Typical test journey

Below are three typical journeys of participants through the COVID-SMART NHS staff testing protocol:

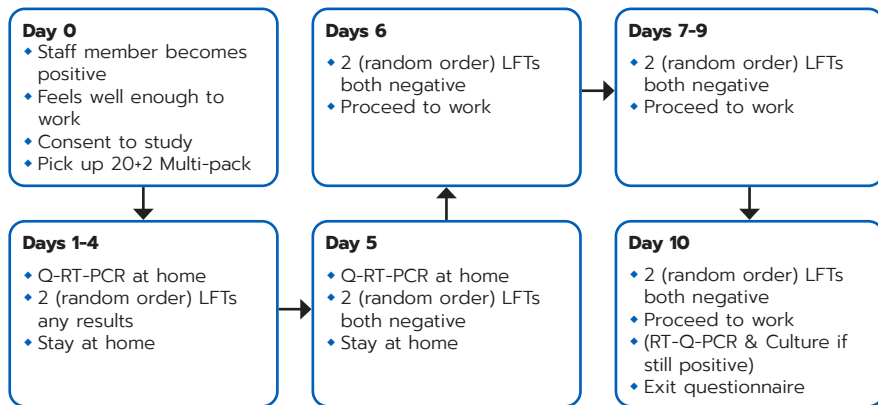
Journey for participant who tests negative throughout:



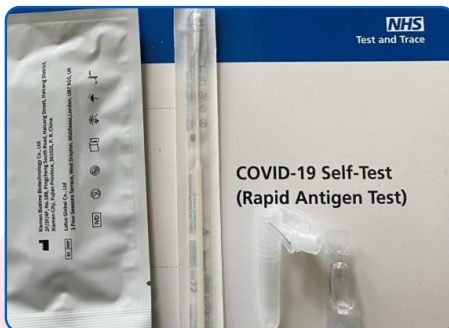
Journey for contact who tests positive at start:



Journey for participant who becomes positive or enters as a case



The test kits in your pack will look like the ones below and will be labelled Test A or Test B on the box. The daily instruction sheet in your pack will tell you which order to take two tests on each day – some days that will be Test A first and other days it will be Test B first:



Further information

You can find more information on the science behind the COVID-SMART NHS Staff Testing protocol and how it is being studied at https://www.dropbox.com/s/hna8rusxf64d2h5/SMART_Release_Return.pdf

To find your nearest Royal Mail priority post box to return PCR tests you enter your postcode here: <https://www.royalmail.com/services-near-you#/>

SMART means a Specific, Meaningful, Adaptive, Realistic and Timely approach to Covid-19 testing for people who work in the NHS.

You can withdraw from the research component of this protocol at any time without giving a reason and without affecting your occupational health activities.

If you have any questions about this protocol, please email StaffCovidSwabbing@liverpoolft.nhs.uk or call 07825 780 962 (weekdays 9.30 – 16.30, weekends 9.30 – 13.00)

Chief Investigator: Prof Iain Buchan, University of Liverpool (Sponsor)
Principal Investigator, Infection Prevention & Control Lead: Dr Tim Neal, LUFT
Operational Leads: Diane Haddock (Occupational Health), Liz Roden
Data Controller: LUHFT/NHS, Research Information Governance Lead: Gary Leeming
Funder: UK Health Security Agency, Lead: Dr Tom Fowler

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