

Workplace Testing

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Identifying asymptomatic cases is key to breaking chains of infection and reducing the number of cases in the workplace and wider society

Scaling asymptomatic testing by employers is one pillar of the overall approach to testing and managing the pandemic. Workers can access testing that is tailored to their situation as follows:

Live


1 Community based testing



<50 Employees

- Community testing is led by local authorities (LAs)
- Asymptomatic is being scaled for small businesses, where workers cannot work from home
- Fixed and/or mobile sites are available depending on your LA, for businesses with under 50 employees


2 Institutional testing



>50 Employees

- 91 companies currently running 244 asymptomatic test sites to test their workforce
- Over 100,000 tests taken by private sector employees
- LFD tests currently funded and provided by NHS T&T

3 Home-collect testing

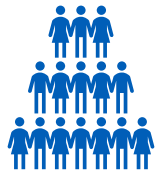


In pilot phase

- Where Asymptomatic Testing Sites (ATS) are not practical and Community testing is not available, we are building new approaches to testing that meet these demands
- Pilots are currently underway before the offer is assessed and potentially scaled

3 examples below which illustrate how it works in practise in the construction sector

Access to testing



Regular workers at same site



For a site with >50 people – testing site if practical, otherwise community testing delivered by local authorities.
For a site with <50 people, community testing delivered by local authorities



Contractors/trades people visiting multiple sites



This would be a matter for the employer to decide as part of the management of their ATS.



Self employed



Sole traders and self-employed citizens should, where available, access testing through community testing delivered by local authorities

Understanding lateral flow tests

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.

Clinical evaluation by Public Health England (PHE) and Oxford University shows that the tests perform best when levels of virus are at their highest – **helping to detect people when they are most infectious.**

Lateral Flow Antigen tests (LFDs)



LFDs have an overall sensitivity of 76.8% for all PCR-positive individuals but detects over **95%** of individuals when **most infectious.**

99.68% LFDs have high ‘specificity’ which means only a very small proportion of people who do not have coronavirus will receive a positive result (known as a ‘false positive’). That’s about 3 in 1,000 tests.

- ✓ Fast result (20-30 minutes)
- ✓ Outside of a formal laboratory setting
- ✓ Well-suited for frequent testing of large numbers of asymptomatic people

We are now rapidly scaling workplace testing to support those who cannot work from home

In order to reduce R, the clinical recommendation is to test at least **75%** of workers who cannot work from home, twice a week, equivalent to **8.8m** people, to find asymptomatic cases and isolate them in order to break chains of infection. To meet this ambitious target, we are rapidly scaling our **workplace testing** which uses our validated **Lateral Flow Antigen tests** to support those who cannot work from home.

Lateral Flow Antigen tests (LFDs)



2x
per week

- ✓ Fast result (20-30 minutes)
- ✓ Outside of a formal laboratory setting
- ✓ Well-suited for frequent testing of large numbers of asymptomatic people

Rapid scale up supported by ...



Our new digital platform, go to www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests this will accelerate the process of onboarding businesses to workplace testing, while addressing key enablers and outstanding policy issues



A suite of metrics to **monitor continuous improvements** for institutional testing. The feedback provided by businesses and institutions is crucial to improving workplace testing and achieving our ambitious challenge



Pilots offering testing methods such as **Home Collect** and **Daily Contact Testing (DCT)**, which will provide optionality as we scale workplace testing

Pilots have proven the workplace testing model to be effective at reducing transmission



Andrew Murphy, Group Operations Director, said “Bosses had seen **lower absence, lower cases, lower spread**. That feels really exciting, if you think about what lateral flow tests ... could do for the country at scale.”

Other key benefits:

- **45,700 tests with employees**
- **Saved 6,643 working days for 2,286 staff members**



Daily swabs saved **'hundreds of thousands of pounds'** and avoided five potential stops in production at its steelworks in Port Talbot, South Wales.

Other key benefits:

- **5,627 checks and around 12,500 work hours have been saved.**



Greg Jackson, CEO and founder of Octopus Energy, said “We started testing in December and it was **so well received by our staff** that we’re continuing it this year.”

- Greg Jackson said, though testing was voluntary, **'almost 100 per cent' of staff use its testing facilities.**

Call to action – What we need from you



Start testing

- If your employees cannot work from home **then you should sign up to workplace testing via the online portal** - www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests



Engage your workforce

- Workforce engagement is critical to the successful roll out of workplace testing
- This will require you to **offer training and support to your staff**, and to **articulate the benefits of workplace testing**



Plan Ahead

- The vaccine roll out is gathering pace, and national restrictions will begin to lift - it is important to consider how this will impact your business
- **Begin planning now** to reduce business disruption and effectively navigate your business out of the pandemic

Helpful resources

A range of editable posters, leaflets and other assets which can be co-branded are being made available for businesses to use. These will be available on the web portal once you register (and available in 13 different languages)



Insert call to action here



Insert call to action here

Illustrative purposes only

Helpful resources

There's also a range of helpful explanatory videos about testing, as well as feedback from those who took part in the pilots:

[An introduction to rapid tests, animated video](#) (1.32)

[Prof Louise Kenny, who led the Liverpool mass community pilot, talks about LFDs](#) (6.57)

[John Lewis workplace testing](#) (1.34)

[Octopus Energy – Greg Jackson](#) (1.25)

Links to workplace testing

To register for workplace testing please visit: www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests

To find out more about community testing please visit your local authority website.
A postcode look-up service will be available shortly on GOV.UK

**Thank you
and Questions**