

## Guidance for staff working with patients and service users in face to face settings

### Symptomatic H&SC Staff

Health and social care staff who work with patients and service users in a face-to-face setting, who have symptoms of a respiratory infection and a high temperature or do not feel well enough to attend work, are advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test as soon as they feel unwell. The result of the LFD test should be reported to their line manager

#### NEGATIVE LFD TEST

If the LFD test result is negative, you can attend work if you are clinically well enough to do so and do not have a high temperature.

If you work with patients whose immune system means that they are at higher risk of serious illness despite vaccination, you should discuss this with your line manager who should undertake a risk assessment.

If you are still displaying respiratory symptoms when you return to work, you should also speak to your line manager who should undertake a risk assessment.

#### POSITIVE LFD TEST

If you have a positive COVID-19 test result, regardless of whether you have symptoms, you should not attend work for a minimum of 5 full days.

Staff working with patients and service users in face-to-face settings can return to work when they have had 2 consecutive negative LFD test results (taken at least 24 hours apart).

Those not working in such settings do not require testing before going back to work, as long as they feel well and do not have a high temperature.

The first LFD test should only be taken 5 days after the day their symptoms started (or the day their first positive test was taken if they did not have symptoms); Day 0 is the date of the onset of symptoms.

If both LFD test results are negative, you may return to work immediately after the second negative LFD test result, provided you meet the criteria below:

- You feel well enough to work, and do not have a high temperature
- a risk assessment is done and consideration is given to redeployment (if you work with individuals whose immune system means that they are at higher risk of serious illness despite vaccination), until 10 days after your symptoms started (or the day your first positive test was taken if you did not have symptoms)
- you continue to comply with infection control precautions and personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn and disposed of correctly.

If your day 5 LFD test is positive, you should continue to test daily until you have received two negative LFD test results, taken 24 hrs apart. If your LFD test result is positive on the 10th day, you should discuss this with your line manager who may undertake a risk assessment to facilitate a return to work.

If you are working with patients and service users in face-to-face settings and are feeling well enough to return to work but are still displaying respiratory symptoms, you should also speak to your line manager who should do a risk assessment