

Workplace Testing, Outbreaks and the Covid-19 Vaccine; Hospitality Sector (7th June 2021)

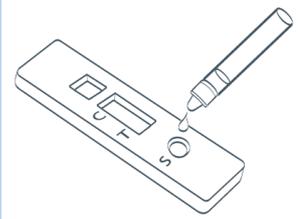
Introduction

There are now many regulations & guidance documents imposing duties upon business to help them remain CoVid Secure. To ensure that you remain up to date with current restrictions on your business you should check the Council website: www.preston.gov.uk/Cv19restrictionsonbusinesses

This is a brief guide to help businesses understand why they should be encouraging staff to undertake regular tests, what to do if a member of staff tests positive and when to seek help and advice. Detailed guidance and resources can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/business/covid-19-resource-pack-for-workplaces/

1. Rapid Lateral Flow (LFT) Tests.

The test for people without symptom of Covid-19 is called a rapid lateral flow test. This involves rubbing a long cotton bud (swab) over your tonsils (or where they would have been) and inside your nose.



The tests can give results in 30 minutes. They use a device similar to a pregnancy test and do not need to be sent to a lab!

Why test?

Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not have symptoms. LFT's help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and give the virus to others. Removing employees with Covid-19 from the workplace helps to protect the workplace, their colleagues and the community. If there are rising numbers of Covid-19 cases, further restrictions may be imposed on businesses.



Where do I get LFT's?

Tests can be ordered on line: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or picked up at a local pharmacy for free, or ordered by calling 119.

How often should my employees undertake a LFT?

It is currently recommended that everyone undertakes a test twice a week, for example every Sunday and Wednesday.

**Get tested twice a week.
Every week.**

Stay COVID-safe. Keep protecting the community.

Do I need to report the results?

Yes, it is very important to report the result (positive, negative or void) of every LFT to the NHS website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119

2. Positive Tests

Does a person have to isolate with a positive LFT result?

If a person undertakes a LFT and tests positive for Covid-19, they and their household contacts must immediately isolate. If the person is at work they must go home, avoiding public transport.

How long is the isolation period?

The person who has Covid-19 must isolate for 10 days, returning to work on day 11, unless they have developed symptoms and remain symptomatic then they must remain off work until the symptoms have stopped. www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/

Does the person need another test?

Yes, everyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 using a LFT must book a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test within 2 days. www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119.

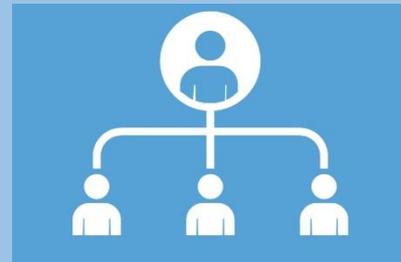
3. Close Contacts

It is vitally important that all close contacts of the persons who has tested positive are identified and told to isolate.

What are close contacts?

A 'close contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 at any time during their infectious period.

- a person who spends significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
 - being coughed on
 - having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
- a person who has had contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day).
- a person who is working 1 metre apart even with mitigations, may suffice for risk assessment purposes, however would still be classed as a contact.
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (think staff who maybe car sharing).
- The onset of the infectious period is counted from the morning of two days before the onset of symptoms



Where an interaction between 2 people has taken place through a Perspex (or equivalent) screen, this would not usually be considered sufficient contact, provided that any plexiglass or Perspex barrier adequately shield the user from direct exposure to droplets from someone within 2 metres and that there has been no other contact such as any of those indicated above.

The wearing of face coverings or other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in a workplace will reduce the risk of transmission but does not prevent a staff member being identified as a close contact if social distancing has not been maintained

See: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person

Do I need to contact Environmental Health if a member of staff test positive for Covid-19?

No, you do not need to inform Environmental Health if one member of staff tests positive. See below for more information on outbreaks.

Can staff who are isolating claim financial support?

There is financial support for employees on low incomes and will lose income as a result of isolation. www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme

Outbreaks

What is considered an outbreak?

If you have 2 or more members of staff that test positive within 2 weeks of each other then this is considered an outbreak, please contact the Environmental Health Team as soon as possible.

What will happen?

We will require details of the persons who have tested positive and will ask you about your Covid control measures, you may even be visited by an Environmental Health Officer.

Will my businesses be closed?

It is not typical that businesses are asked to close, it is our aim to help you to minimise disruption to your business and ensure that you can keep trading safely.

If too many members of staff contract Covid-19 or are required to isolate as a close contact then your business may close due to lack of staff.

If the business continuously suffers from on-going positive cases of Covid-19 then it is possible that your business will be closed to break the chain of infections, but this would be considered as a last resort.

Vaccinations

Vaccines are a critical tool in the battle against Covid-19, and getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from Covid-19.

You're much less likely to develop severe symptoms or be hospitalised with Covid-19 if you've had both doses of the vaccine. Getting the vaccine is safer than getting infected. It is important you attend both of your vaccination appointments as two doses are needed for maximum protection.



Every Covid 19 vaccine helps protect you and your family

You're much less likely to develop severe symptoms or be hospitalised with Covid 19 if you've had both doses of the vaccine.

If your GP contacts you about the vaccine make an appointment as soon as possible, or if you don't want to wait go on-line and make an appointment (if you're eligible) or call 119.

It is important you attend both of your vaccination appointments as two doses are needed for maximum protection.

Book your appointment today.




Persons who are vaccinated are also less likely to spread the Covid-19 thus protecting themselves and their places of work.

Anyone can book through the NHS website or call 119, if they meet the eligibility criteria; www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/

Anyone aged 18 or over can book an appointment with their GP if they live in Preston.

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There are also local initiatives such as walk-in vaccination days, for more information visit facebook: www.facebook.com/PrestonCityCouncil/

Useful Information

Environmental Health

01772 906907 or info@preston.gov.uk
www.preston.gov.uk/cv19workplaces
www.preston.gov.uk/cv19pubs

Lancashire County Council

Resources including further Covid-19 information on outbreak control and contact tracing as well as template letters for staff required to isolate for Covid-19.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/business/covid-19-resource-pack-for-workplaces/

Pan Lancashire Contact Tracing Hub

Help and advice in relation to Covid-19 outbreaks in your workforce.

lancashirecontacttracing@phe.gov.uk