

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing available for adult social care in England

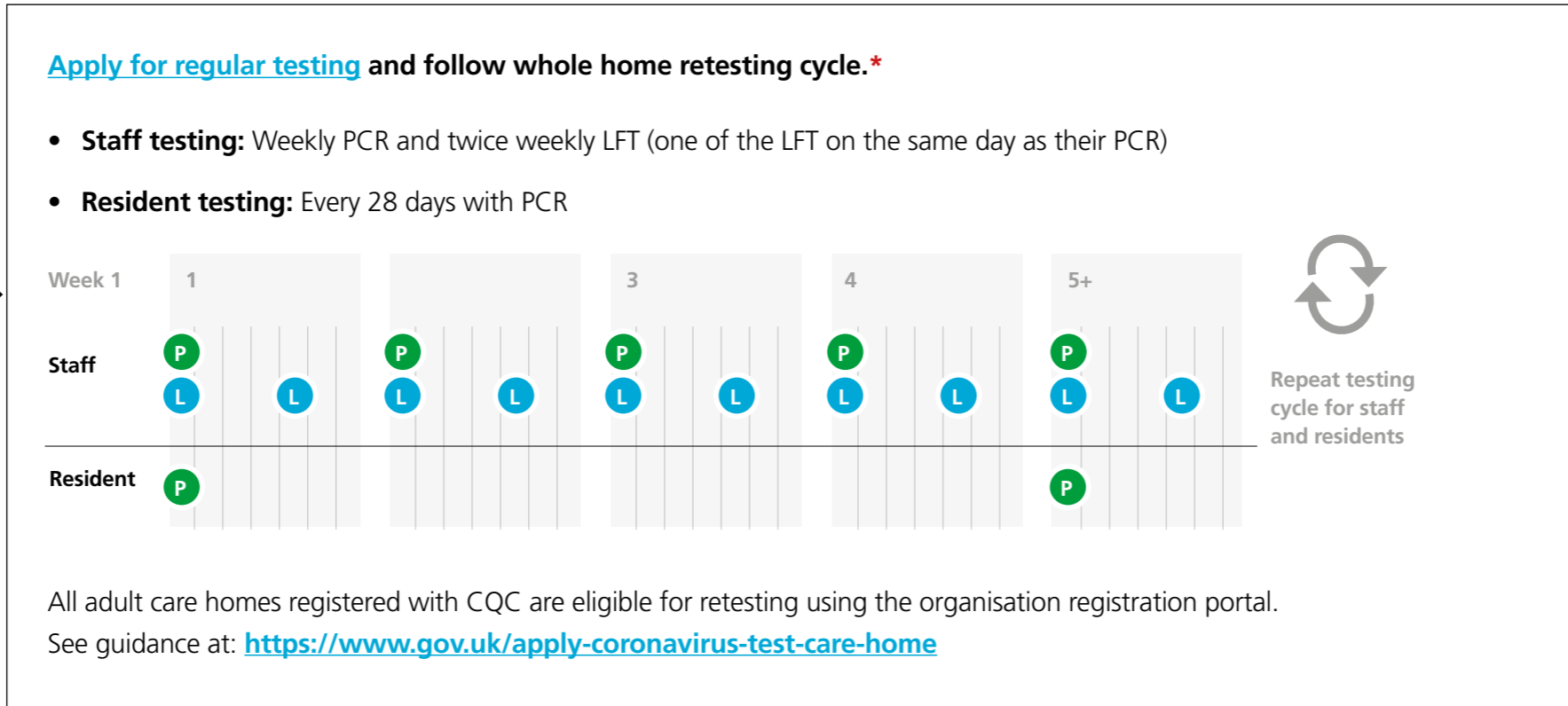
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Care Homes: Staff and residents

Key: **P** PCR test **L** Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

No clinically suspected or confirmed cases in staff or residents



If there is a positive case in the care home from either staff or residents with PCR or LFT, conduct rapid response LFT testing on staff daily and report to the HPT. See next page for more details on what to do.

: Any staff returning to work after a period of leave which has resulted in them missing their weekly PCR test should take an LFT test at the beginning of their shift. For further information, please visit:
test staff with LFT immediately before shift if individual has worked somewhere else since the last time they worked in that care home.

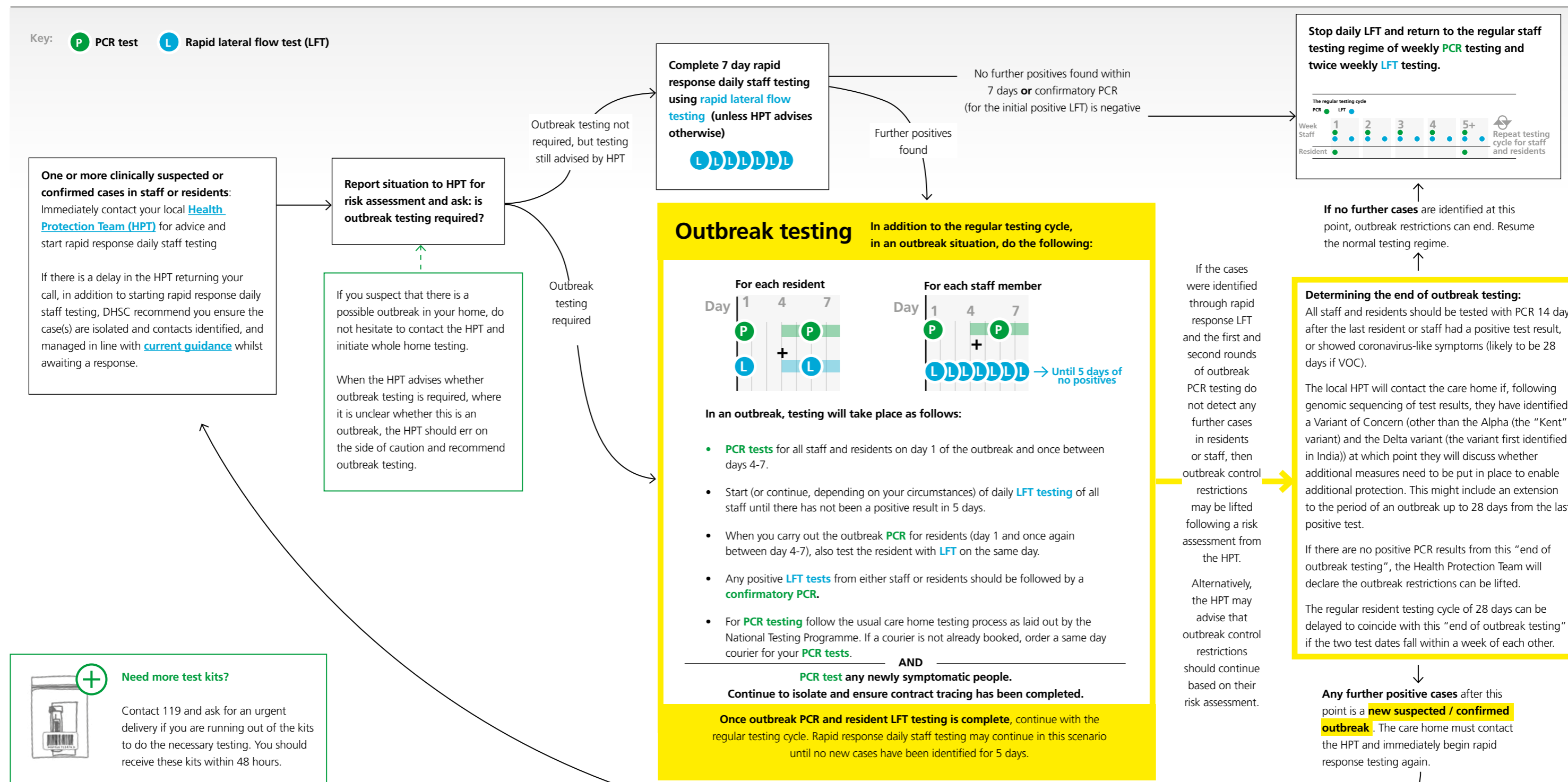
The 90 day policy:

If someone has tested positive with a PCR test, they should not be tested using PCR or LFT for 90 days, unless they develop new symptoms during this time, in which case they should be retested immediately using PCR. This 90 day period is from the initial onset of symptoms or, if asymptomatic when tested, their positive test result. Individuals should use evidence of their positive PCR test to show they are currently exempt from asymptomatic testing. [See guidance.](#)

Care Homes: Outbreak testing

Definition of an outbreak: 2 or more clinically suspected or confirmed positives (LFT or PCR) among residents or staff detected in the same 14 day period. Two or more cases therefore usually requires outbreak testing, HPT to advise. One positive test result may be the first sign of an outbreak, so you should also contact your health protection team for advice in this instance.

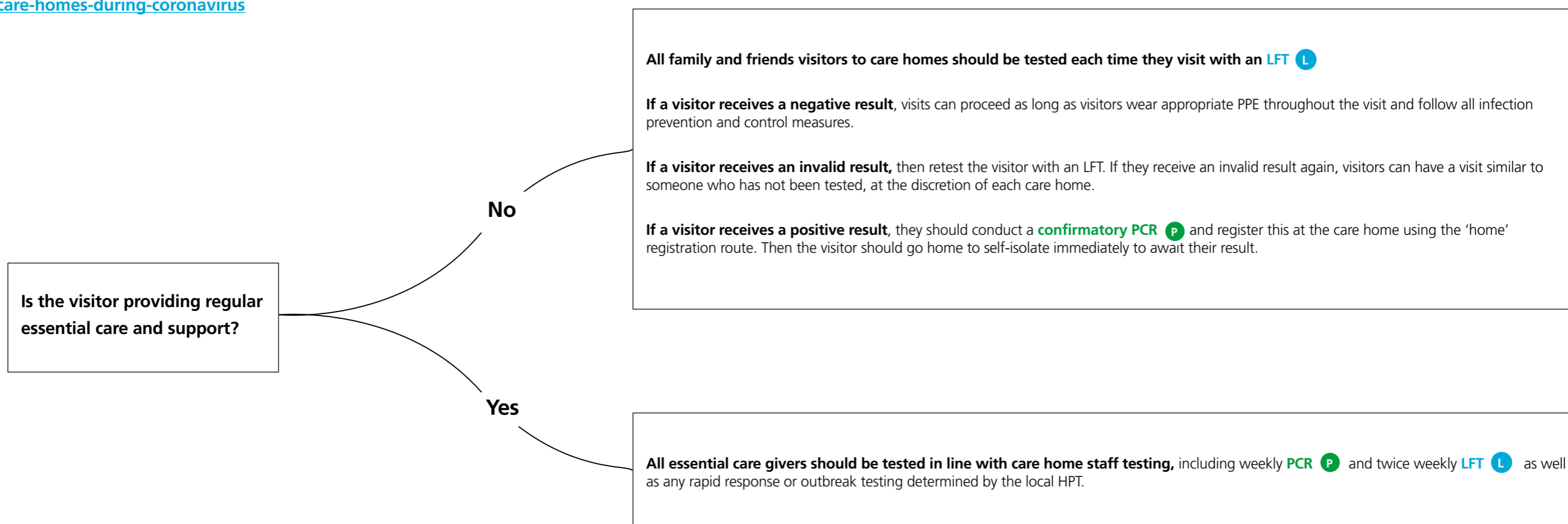
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Care Homes: Family and friends

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For more information about visitor guidance, visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus>



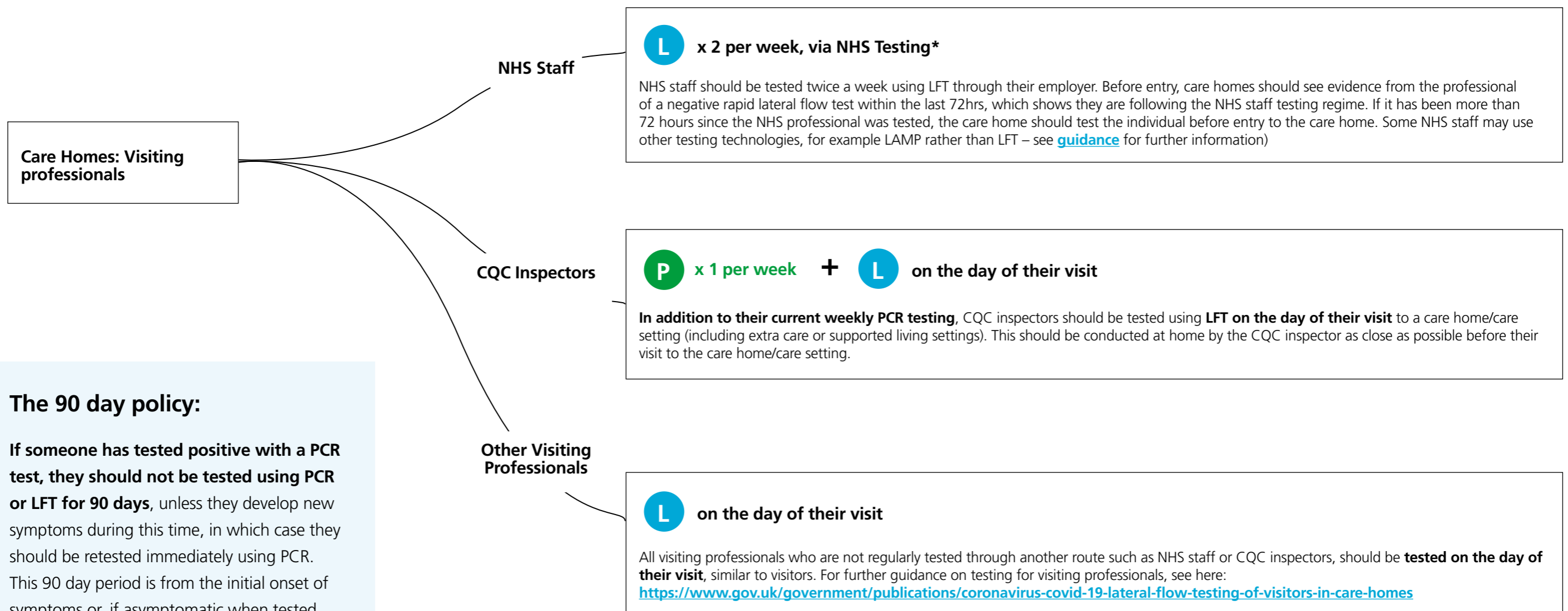
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Care Homes: Visiting professionals

“Visiting professionals” are defined as professionals who visit care homes as part of delivering their role, including health professionals, CQC inspectors and maintenance workers. **The default position is that without a negative test, the professional should not be allowed into the care home**, (unless in an emergency, unless overridden by the care home manager following a risk based decision, or unless their entry is required by law such as CQC inspectors).

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Extra Care and Supported Living

Key: **P** PCR test **L** Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

Outbreak Testing

Report to [Health Protection Team \(HPT\)](#) / Directors of Public Health. They will:

- undertake an initial risk assessment
- provide advice on outbreak management
- decide what testing is needed

To find out which public health team covers your area visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>

You have a new or current outbreak?

Yes

No

Does your setting meet **BOTH** of the following criteria:

- 1** The setting is a closed community with substantial facilities shared between multiple people
- AND**
- 2** Majority of residents (more than 50%) receive the kind of personal care that is CQC regulated (rather than help with cooking, cleaning and shopping).

Yes, both criteria are met

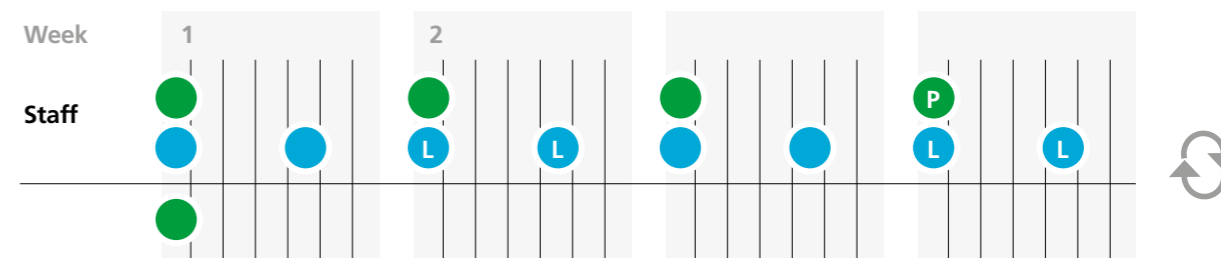
No, just one of these are met

For full guidance on testing for extra care and supported living: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-service-for-extra-care-and-supported-living-settings>

High risk extra care and supported living settings:

Staff testing: Weekly PCR testing, and twice-weekly rapid lateral flow tests for staff

Resident testing: Monthly PCR testing

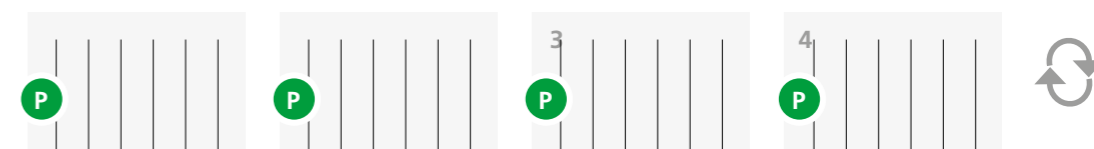


If there is a positive case, immediately test all staff daily with LFT for 7 days.



Wider extra care and supported living settings:

Staff testing: Weekly PCR testing



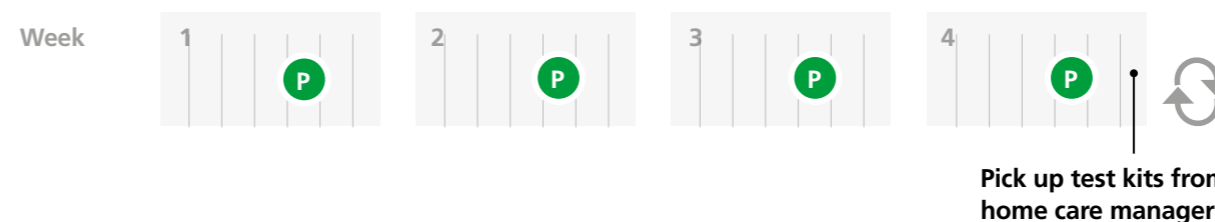
Home Care

Key: **P** PCR test **L** Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

Type of home care?

Domiciliary care

All CQC registered domiciliary care workers should conduct weekly PCR testing.



Organisations can order tests for their staff using their UON from <https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>
All home care organisations registered with CQC providing personal care are eligible for retesting using the organisation registration portal.

For full guidance on testing for domiciliary care testing, please see:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-homecare-workers>

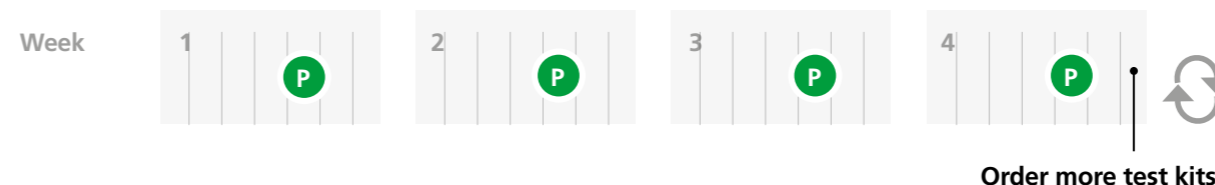
Personal assistants

The 90 day policy:

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[See guidance.](#)

For testing purposes, a 'personal assistant' is someone who is directly employed by an individual (or self-employed) to provide care and support to an adult over the age of 18 that requires them to come within 2 meters to deliver the service.'

Personal assistants should conduct weekly PCR testing. Personal assistants should order tests every 28 days for themselves or an employer can order tests for their personal assistant from <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



For full guidance on testing for personal assistants, please see:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-personal-assistants>

Day Care Centres

Day care centres run by paid care staff that provide services in non-residential care settings which support the health and wellbeing of adults (i.e. over 18). This includes settings such as:

- purpose-built day centres
- day centres attached to or part of a care home or supported living setting
- other buildings in communities specifically used for regular adult day care.

Eligible settings can get access to testing through the organisation self-referral portal: <https://request-onboarding.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>


Key: P PCR test L Rapid lateral flow test (LFT)

Staff testing schedule: We advise that workers take **2 rapid lateral flow tests and 1 PCR test per week**, ideally before starting their work shift:

- One rapid LFT **on the same day** as the PCR test (Thurs-Sun).
- One rapid LFT on days 3-4 between PCR tests.

If anyone tests positive, they will need to undertake a **confirmatory PCR** and then self-isolate at home immediately until they receive their result.

Week

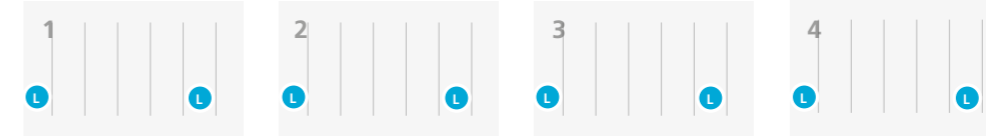


Organisations can order tests for their staff using their UON from <https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>
For full guidance on testing for day care centres, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-adult-day-care-centre-workers>

Service users testing schedule: Service users can still visit the centres if they have not tested. Testing is not mandatory.

We recommend for service users that are able to test, to test twice a week with 3-4 days in between using rapid LFT only. If they are attending twice a week, test on the days of attendance. If they are attending once a week, they only need to test once in the week. These should ideally be on the day, prior to attending the centre.

Week



Testing can be completed either at-home or on-site at the discretion of the day care centre manager.

Service users can also self-test or receive assisted swabbing.

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[See guidance.](#)

All other ASC testing

Do you have access to regular ASC testing?
(Are you part of a testing programme detailed above?)

Yes

Adult Social Care staff who are eligible for regular testing through a national adult social care testing programme (for example all care home staff, domiciliary carers, eligible extra care and supported living settings, and eligible day care centres) should continue to access testing through their existing adult social care testing programme and continuing registering all results to their Unique Organisation Number (UON).

This is important because these testing regimes are designed specifically for each part of adult social care based on clinical advice from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and Public Health England (PHE). We monitor the testing data for each part of adult social care to understand the prevalence in that sector and inform our guidance to keep people as safe as possible.

No

Free rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) tests are now available for everyone in England without symptoms.

Anyone working in adult social care who is not currently part of regular testing regime should access twice weekly testing through this link. This will be crucial in detecting people that are infectious and to help maintain the safety of everyone in the ASC sector.

Adult Social Care staff who are not part of a regular testing regime may include social workers and support workers, those working for charities or community organisations, shared lives carers, personal assistants, unpaid carers and others. Where appropriate, regular testing of people being supported (for example if attending respite) may also be beneficial.

Rapid lateral flow tests (LFT) are available for home delivery, for collection at participating pharmacies and local sites and at local asymptomatic test sites. Staff should access these tests through any of these routes and test twice weekly (3-4 days), ideally before starting work.

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[See guidance.](#)

Further ASC testing information

Anyone with symptoms can get tested for coronavirus by visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Further Care Home Information

Testing for people being admitted to a care home

People being discharged from hospital to a care home are tested at hospital before discharge. For further information, visit: [guidance on admission, isolation and test](#). This guidance will continue to be updated regularly so check back every retest cycle.

Testing for people being admitted to a care home from the community

We have published a [service model](#) for care homes to follow when testing individuals moving from the community into a care home.

Further ASC Information

Testing Strategy

Our testing strategy for adult social care is based on scientific advice on relative priorities and available testing in order to limit the spread and save lives. We are continuing to develop our testing strategy for adult social care. We will continue to review our social care testing strategy for adult social care in light of the latest evidence, available capacity and new testing innovations. Anyone with suspected coronavirus symptoms can access testing through the self-referral portal on [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Testing and COVID-19 Vaccine

Whilst vaccination offers vital protection, no vaccine is 100% effective, and importantly we do not yet know if being vaccinated prevents transmission of the disease. In order to identify positive cases and continue to monitor the effects and transmission of coronavirus, we must continue to operate a thorough and meaningful testing programme, even in settings where vaccines have been administered. We will keep this policy under review as further evidence becomes available regarding the impact of vaccination.

Antibody Testing

All paid adult social care staff are able to access an at-home antibody test. This includes all staff working in residential care, homecare and local authority adult social care departments. For more information and to access an antibody test, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/register-coronavirus-antibody-test>

ASC Staff Isolation Guidance

If a staff member is fully vaccinated and notified that they are a contact of a COVID-19 positive case, they are not required to self-isolate and can continue working provided they:

- have received a negative PCR test
- receive daily negative LFD tests for the duration of their otherwise isolation period

If an unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff member is notified that they are a contact of a COVID-19 positive case, they must self-isolate as advised unless they are exempt.

For further guidance, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings>

Further advice

If you have any issues with registration, delivery or collection of test kits, contact the Coronavirus Testing call centre on 119. It's open from 07:00 to 23:00 every day.

Any adult social care setting with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 outbreak should contact their local Health Protection Team. Contact details are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>