



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Care Home outbreak testing for COVID-19 flowchart: staff and residents

Quick reference guide for the COVID-19 testing in Adult Social Care guidance.

## 1 Have there been 2 or more positive COVID-19 cases in a 14-day period?

**NO**

If any staff member or resident becomes symptomatic, they should take an **LFD test** on day 0 and then on day 2. If either of these are positive, follow the guidance in the [IPC - COVID-19 Supplement](#).

**Positive case** If there is one positive case in the home, staff should conduct rapid response testing for 5 days. If there are further linked cases within the 5-day period, contact the HPT (or relevant authority) for advice.

**YES**

**Contact the HPT and start rapid response testing**

Begin rapid response testing and contact the HPT (or relevant authority) if you suspect an outbreak.

**An outbreak is** 2 or more positive (or clinically suspected) linked cases of COVID-19 associated with the same setting within a 14-day period.

### Outbreak Testing (if advised)

**Day 1:** all staff and residents take PCR\* and LFD tests.

**Days 4 to 7:** staff and residents take one PCR\* and one LFD on one of these days.

**Day 7 onwards:** No further testing until outbreak recovery testing unless individuals become symptomatic.

## 2 Has anyone tested positive in the last 10 days of the outbreak?

**NO**

**Conduct outbreak recovery testing**  
All staff and residents conduct a PCR\* test.

**YES**

**Outbreak continues**

Continue LFD testing any newly symptomatic individuals.

### Were any new positives found?

**NO**

COVID-19 outbreak measures can be lifted.

**YES**

**Continue outbreak measures** if new cases could be linked to the original outbreak. You can get advice from your HPT or relevant authority. After 10 days of no new positives, repeat step 2.

## 3 After outbreak recovery testing

Have there been 2 or more positive (or clinically suspected) linked cases in the home after outbreak recovery testing?

**NO**

No further testing unless individuals become symptomatic.

**YES**

This should be classed as a new potential outbreak and the care home should follow the process from **step 1**.



Scan QR Code for [COVID-19 testing](#) in Adult Social Care guidance

\*If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, they should not conduct a PCR test.

Read the COVID-19 Testing in Adult Social Care guidance document for further information.