



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19 (DTCC)

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## Background

- From **Tuesday 14 December**, daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 (DTCC) is being introduced for close contacts who are fully vaccinated or under 18.
- This will replace all previous guidance on isolation rules for contacts, regardless of whether they are linked to a suspected or confirmed Omicron case.
- If vaccinated contacts participate in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19, it will help to reduce the spread of Omicron with limited impact on people's day to day lives, although they should limit avoidable social contact as much as possible, particularly around vulnerable people.

## What has changed?

- Contacts participating in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 are asked to take a LFT test for 7 consecutive days (or up until the end of the 10-day self-isolation period, if sooner).
- Contacts should use any unused stocks of LFDs that they have at home. Further supplies can be obtained from pharmacies, community testing sites, and through gov.uk [LFD reporting system](#) or by calling 119.
- Contacts should self-isolate immediately if any of their LFD tests gives a positive result, or if they develop symptoms, and order a confirmatory PCR test.
- There are no changes to the rules for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated or exempt. They must isolate for 10 days from the contact with the positive case.

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

<b>Why is daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 being introduced now?</b>	<p>A combination of daily testing and limiting avoidable social contact will help reduce the spread of the virus. This is because it can help identify positive cases who are asymptomatic and break the chains of transmission.</p> <p>This will also remove the need to isolate for fully vaccinated individuals who may have had contact with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case, removing the impact that can have on mental health and wellbeing.</p>
<b>Who is eligible to take part in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fully vaccinated household and non-household adult contacts</li><li>• Close contacts aged 5 years to 18 years and 6 months</li><li>• Residents of England who are notified as a close contact whilst in England. If you are identified as a close contact whilst resident in one of the devolved administrations you must follow the local guidance.</li><li>• If you are a fully vaccinated and identified as a contact whilst on a plane, when returning home from abroad. - note</li></ul>
<b>How do I know if I'm eligible for daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?</b>	<p>NHS Test and Trace will notify you if you are a contact of a positive case and will signpost you to further information about eligibility on daily testing for contacts of Covid-19.</p>

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

**I am fully vaccinated and a contact of someone with Covid-19, what do I need to be aware of?**

- You should wear a face covering where required such as in indoor public places and on public transport, including taxis.
- You should limit avoidable social contact as much as possible, particularly around vulnerable people, and in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces.
- Work from home if you can and if you cannot work from home you will need to follow any specific guidance for your workplace.
- Limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.
- Lateral Flow Tests can detect the vast majority of cases, however if you develop COVID-19 symptoms isolate and take a PCR Test.
- Follow the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread.
- You should report all your daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 results if you are taking part in the DTCC programme – [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result).

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

<b>What is the minimum age for daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 ?</b>	With parental consent, children aged 5 and over can participate in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19.
<b>Can children participate in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?</b>	Daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 is available to children aged 5 and over. It is strongly encouraged for 12-18 year olds but left to the discretion of parents/guardians for under-12s.
<b>I am fully vaccinated. Am I legally required to undertake daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?</b>	<p>All fully vaccinated contacts who are eligible for daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 are only advised to test – they will have no legal requirements for self-isolation, this will not change whether they chose to test or not.</p> <p>All contacts whether they test or not should continue to follow national guidance as well as limit social contacts – especially around elderly and vulnerable people.</p>
<b>I am not fully vaccinated. Why can't I undertake daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 instead of self-isolation?</b>	<p>Only fully vaccinated contacts of a positive case are exempt from isolation and can participate in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19.</p> <p>Unvaccinated close contacts are legally required to isolate for 10 days from the contact with the positive case, unless they are part of an approved Workplace Daily Contact Testing scheme.</p>

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

**What is the definition of fully vaccinated?**

'Fully vaccinated' is defined as having received full course of an MHRA approved vaccination, with 14 days having elapsed since the final dose (see FAQs for definition of a full course, by vaccine type).

You are also considered fully vaccinated if:

- You are under 18 years and 6 months.
- You are taking part or have taken part in an MHRA approved Covid-19 vaccine clinical trial.
- You are unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons.

**If I am eligible for daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 , where can I access LFD tests?**

If you are eligible for daily testing for contacts of Covid-19, you can access test kits:

1. Use any unused stocks of LFDs that you have at home
2. Students will have collected tests from their school
3. From pharmacies: [Rapid lateral flow coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
4. From community testing sites
5. From the gov.uk home order channel: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Participants can contact 119 if they need support ordering/accessing test kits and for language support if English is not their first language.

**We ask that you do not stockpile tests, please only hold keep what you would need for one round of seven days testing for each member of your household.**

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

<b>What if I am eligible but can't access test kits?</b>	If you cannot access test kits, you do not have to self-isolate but you are strongly advised to limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded or enclosed spaces and with anyone who is more vulnerable. You should continue to follow the current government guidance.
<b>Are Omicron contacts treated differently to other contacts?</b>	<p>No, all fully vaccinated contacts will be exempt from isolation and advised to undertake daily testing for contacts of Covid-19. This also applies to contacts of suspected or confirmed cases of the Omicron variant.</p> <p>All close contacts who are not fully vaccinated, including close contacts of suspected or confirmed cases of the Omicron variant, are required to self-isolate for 10 full days from their contact with the positive case.</p>
<b>Why are Omicron contacts no longer asked to isolate when we know how transmissible the variant is?</b>	Public health research has shown that a combination of daily testing and limiting avoidable social contact is effective in restricting transmission and containing the virus.
<b>What happens if you're isolating because of Omicron?</b>	<p>If you are fully vaccinated and currently isolating due to being a contact of someone that has Omicron, you no longer need to isolate and should take daily LFD tests for the isolation period of 10 days after your initial exposure date.</p> <p>You are also strongly advised to limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded or enclosed spaces and with anyone who is more vulnerable. You should continue to follow the current government guidance.</p>

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

**When should I start testing and how many tests should I take?**

If you are eligible for daily testing for contacts of Covid-19, you should ensure you have sufficient LFDs to complete 7 daily tests.

You don't have to self-isolate whilst you wait to take your first test.

Take a test as soon as you know that you have been in close contact with a positive case.

- If you test negative – it is important to follow national guidance, including reducing contact with others, especially the elderly and vulnerable.
- If you test positive – self-isolate immediately and you must take a confirmatory PCR test

You should take a maximum of 7 tests or until 10 days after exposure to the positive case if sooner.

**What type of LFD kits can be used for daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 ?**

All the following LFD kits can be used:

- NHS Branded COVID-19 self-test
- Orient Gene
- ACON Flowflex
- MP Biomedicals
- Sure Screen

All tests are equally suitable and have been clinically evaluated and selected for their use based on performance.

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

<b>Do I need to take all 7 LFD tests?</b>	Contacts participating in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 are asked to take a LFD test for 7 consecutive days (or until 10 days after exposure to the positive case, if sooner).
<b>What if I have a positive LFD result or develop symptoms while undertaking daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?</b>	<p>If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, and/or your LFD test gives a positive result, you should self-isolate and order a confirmatory PCR test <a href="https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19">Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>.</p> <p>You should self-isolate for 10 full days (without taking any further LFD tests) unless a confirmatory PCR test taken within the next 2 days gives a negative result.</p>
<b>How can I report my LFD test result?</b>	<p>For every test that you take, you should report your LFD result via this gov.uk page: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result">Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>.</p> <p>Participants can contact 119 if they need support reporting their results and for language support if English is not their first language.</p> <p>It is important to report your result even if it is negative or invalid so that we can track the numbers of positive results being reported against the total number of tests being taken. This helps us to spot patterns and identify outbreaks more quickly.</p> <p>If people only tell us positive results, virus case levels look higher than they really are. So even if your test is negative or void, make sure you report it to us right away.</p>

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

**Can I use the LFD test kits I already have for daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?**

You should use any unused stocks of LFDs that you have at home. You can get further supplies:

1. **Students will have collected tests from their school**
2. From pharmacies: [Rapid lateral flow coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
3. From community testing sites
4. From the gov.uk home order channel: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Participants can contact 119 if they need support ordering/accessing test kits and for language support if English is not their first language.

**I already undertake LFD tests under the Universal testing offer. Should I still participate in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?**

You should take part in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 if you have been identified as a close contact of a positive case.

When your daily testing is complete, you may wish to take a LFD test under the Universal testing offer if it is expected that there will be a period of high risk that day.

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

**Will people be monitoring if I submit test results or not?**

There will be no monitoring of your test results reported, however we strongly encourage you to upload all test results as this helps improve our understanding of transmission rates.

**How do my test results affect what I can and can't do?**

**Positive LFD:**

If you test positive with an LFD test you should self-isolate and order a confirmatory PCR test: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-PCR-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19).

**Positive Confirmatory PCR:**

If your confirmatory PCR test is positive, you must self-isolate for 10 days and should inform people you may think are a contact.

**Negative LFD:**

If you test negative – it is important to follow national guidance, including reducing contact with others, especially the elderly and vulnerable.

**Negative Confirmatory PCR:**

If your confirmatory PCR test is negative, you do not need to isolate but you should continue the remainder of your daily LFD tests.

# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

**I am a fully vaccinated contact and a PCR test I have taken is negative. Should I continue to undertake LFD daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?**

If you are participating in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 , you should continue to take a LFD test for 7 consecutive days (or until 10 days after exposure to the positive case, if sooner), even if you have taken a PCR test and the result is negative.

**I am a fully vaccinated contact and a PCR test I have taken is positive. Should I continue to undertake LFD daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?**

If your PCR test is positive, you are legally required to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms (or the day of the test if you do not have symptoms).

Further LFD tests are not necessary during your isolation period.

**Can I claim support payments if I participate in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19?**

You may be eligible for the support payments if you need to isolate following a positive COVID-19 result. You need to apply through your local council if you think you meet the eligibility criteria for the payment.



# Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid-19

<p><b>I have developed symptoms while testing, but my LFD tests are negative. What should I do?</b></p>	<p>If you develop symptoms, even if your LFD test is negative, you should self-isolate and book a PCR test immediately.</p>
<p><b>I was identified as a close contact, I took a PCR test and the result was negative. I since have been undertaking daily LFD tests, and my last LFD test was positive. What should I do?</b></p>	<p>If your LFD test is positive, you should self-isolate and book a further PCR test to confirm your positive LFD result. You should do so immediately. You can book this PCR test online or by calling 119.</p>
<p><b>I am a close contact who is not vaccinated, do I need to take a PCR test?</b></p>	<p>Unvaccinated close contacts are legally required to isolate for 10 days from the contact with the positive case and advised to take a PCR test. You are not eligible for daily testing for contacts of Covid-19.</p> <p>If your PCR test is positive your isolation period will reset for 10 days from the day of the test or if symptomatic the day after the onset of symptoms.</p>