

Covid testing update

April 2023

Please contact the IPC team for support
We are available 5 days a week (9am to 4pm)
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Advice, links to national guidance, FAQ's can be found on our web page:

[Infection Prevention and Control :: Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICS](https://hantsiowhealthandcare.org.uk)
hantsiowhealthandcare.org.uk

Links to relevant guidance

- [COVID-19 testing approach from April 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-testing-approach-from-april-2023)
- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)
- [COVID-19: testing from 1 April 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-testing-from-1-april-2023)
- [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-supplement-to-the-infection-prevention-and-control-resource-for-adult-social-care)
- [A guide to the COVID-19 spring booster 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-the-covid-19-spring-booster-2023)

Changes to ASC guidance (table of changes)

Guidance section	Overview of changes
Vaccination	Updated to outline revised details of targeted vaccination offer and latest JCVI interim advice
Staff or service users with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19	Symptomatic testing is now advised only for those eligible for COVID-19 treatments and during suspected outbreaks in care homes.
Staff or service users with a positive COVID-19 test result	People who test positive for COVID-19 can return to their usual activities after 5 days if they feel well and no longer have a high temperature. Testing no longer required for individuals to return to normal before 10 days following a positive test.
Outbreaks in care homes	Only the first 5 residents with symptoms of a respiratory infection will be asked to take an LFD test to identify if there is an outbreak of COVID-19. This is in addition to ongoing testing for symptomatic individuals eligible for COVID-19 treatments. Removal of PCR and whole home testing. Outbreak measures can be lifted 5 days after the last suspected or confirmed case . No difference between advice for small care homes and other care homes. Health protections teams (HPTs) can advise wider testing where there are specific concerns.
Visiting arrangements in care homes	Updated to be explicit that there should not be any restrictions on visits out for individuals who are not symptomatic or who have not tested positive in any circumstance.
Admission of care home residents	Those being admitted from hospital will take an LFD test within 48 hours before discharge. No requirement for PCR tests. Admissions from the community are no longer advised to test.
Ordering tests	Removal of 'COVID-19 testing in adult social care' guidance, with remaining elements added into COVID-19 supplement. Removal of PCR testing and references to this. No requirement for rapid response testing for care homes and high-risk extra care and supported living. Closure of dedicated test ordering routes for adult day care centres, home care, social care workers, personal assistants, and shared lives carers. Individuals working in these services can order tests via GOV.UK if they are eligible for COVID-19 treatments. Signposting to NHS guidance for testing and access to COVID-19 treatments.

Summary of other changes to testing for ASC providers from April 2023

New guidance – identifying symptomatic cases and isolation

- Staff who have [symptoms of a respiratory infection](#) and who have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- These staff members do not need to take an LFD test if they are symptomatic.
- They should follow the guidance for people with [guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19](#).
- *Local advice: Consider asking staff to wear fluid Resistant Surgical masks (FRSM) were they do not meet the requirement to stay off work but have respiratory symptoms.*
- Care home residents who have [symptoms of a respiratory infection](#) and who have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to do their usual activities are advised to avoid contact with other people.
- They should be supported to stay away from others until they no longer have a high temperature or no longer feel unwell.
- These residents are not required to take an LFD test if they are symptomatic.
- These residents are able to have at least one visitor during this time, with appropriate IPC precautions. Refer to the section on [Visiting arrangements in care homes](#).
- If these staff members or residents receive a positive LFD test result for COVID-19, regardless of whether they have symptoms, they should follow guidance outlined in [Staff or service users with a positive COVID-19 test result](#)
- After 5 days, staff can return to work once they feel well, and do not have a high temperature. If they are still displaying respiratory symptoms when they return to work, they should speak to their line manager who should undertake a risk assessment.
- Care home residents who test positive should be supported to stay away from others for a minimum of 5 days after the day they took the test.
- After 5 days, the resident can return to their normal activities if they feel well and no longer have a high temperature.

Spring Booster

- [A guide to the COVID-19 spring booster 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

People aged 75 years and older, residents in care homes for older people, and those aged 5 years and over with a weakened immune system will be offered a booster of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine this spring.

Timing of the spring booster

- You should be offered an appointment between April and June, with those at highest risk being called in first. You will be invited to have your booster around 6 months from your last dose but you can have it from 3 months.
- If you are turning 75 years of age between April and June, you will be called for vaccination during the campaign; you do not have to wait for your birthday.