

TESTING IN RESIDENTIAL REGULATED CARE SETTINGS: 17.09.2021

N.B For the purposes of care home testing Alpha and Delta variants are not considered to be VOCs (Variants of Concern)

Regular Care Home Testing:

- Residents: PCR every 4 weeks
- Staff: PCR weekly. LFD on same day as PCR plus repeat LFD 3-4 days later

In addition staff should take LFD test prior to starting their shift if:

- They are returning to work or have been on leave which has caused them to miss their regular PCR/LFD test

OR

- They have worked at another care facility since they last worked in this care home

One person tests positive (Either LFD or PCR) NOT confirmed as VOC

- Undertake confirmatory PCR of positive case if the positive was a LFD test
- Trigger daily LFD testing for all staff on shift each day.
- LFD staff testing should continue for a minimum of 7 days unless the confirmatory PCR for the positive case that triggered the LFD testing is negative and there have been no new positive tests during this time

If no further positive cases are identified from 7-day LFD testing:

- Re-establish normal regular testing regime

If a second or more case/s are detected through 7-day LFD testing:

- Report a suspected outbreak
- Implement outbreak restrictions
- Undertake baseline whole home PCR testing of staff and residents
- Repeat whole home PCR testing of staff and residents at day 4-7

If baseline and 4-7 day PCR testing do not detect further cases undertake a risk assessment which should include:

- Links between positive cases
- Levels of vaccine coverage in residents and staff (ideally greater than 90%)
- Levels of participation in routine staff weekly testing (ideally greater than 75%)
- Compliance with IPC measures

On completion the Care Homes Outbreak Control Team should consider the risk assessment and make a judgement as to whether outbreak restrictions can be lifted.

Single case has positive PCR (either staff or resident) which is confirmed as VOC

- Implement outbreak restrictions
- Trigger 7-day staff LFD testing for those staff in work each day
- Complete whole home staff and resident PCR and LFD testing at day 1 (baseline)

- Repeat whole home staff and resident LFD and PCR between days 4-7 for all those who tested negative at baseline testing

If no new cases identified from baseline and 4-7 day testing outbreak restrictions may be lifted.

Outbreak Non-VOC i.e. two or more cases in staff and/or residents not known to be variant of concern:

- Trigger daily LFD testing for all staff on shift each day for a minimum of 7 days.
- Continue daily LFD staff testing until there has been no further positive cases for five consecutive days
- Complete whole home staff and resident LFD and PCR testing at day 1 (baseline)
- Repeat whole home staff and resident LFD and PCR testing 4-7 days after baseline testing for all those who tested negative at baseline testing
- Complete recovery PCR testing 14 days after the last positive **OR** symptomatic resident or staff member

Example 1: Non-VOC No new cases identified after outbreak onset

Onset date of outbreak	Baseline LFD	Baseline PCR	4-7 days LFD	4-7 days PCR	14 day recovery testing
04.08.2021	04.08.2021	04.08.2021	8-11.08.2021	8-11.08.2021	19.08.2021

Example 2 : Non VOC where new cases have been identified after outbreak onset

Onset date of outbreak	Baseline LFD	Baseline PCR	4-7 days LFD	4-7 days PCR	New case detected	14 day recovery testing
04.08.2021	04.08.2021	04.08.2021	08-11.08.2021	08-11.08.2021	09.08.2021	24.08.2021
1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Outbreak VOC i.e. two or more cases in staff and/or residents where it has been confirmed this is a variant of concern

- Trigger daily LFD testing for all staff on shift each day.
- Continue daily LFD staff testing until there has been no further positive cases for five consecutive days
- Complete whole home staff and resident LFD and PCR testing at day 1 (baseline)
- Repeat whole home staff and resident LFD and PCR 4-7 days after baseline testing for all those who tested negative at baseline
- Complete recovery PCR testing 28 days after the last positive or symptomatic resident or staff member

Example 3: VOC Outbreak where no new cases identified after outbreak onset

Onset date of outbreak	Baseline LFD	Baseline PCR	4-7 days LFD	4-7 days PCR	28 day recovery testing
04.08.2021	04.08.2021	04.08.2021	08-11.08.2021	08-11.08.2021	01.09.2021

Example 4: VOC Outbreak where new cases have been detected after outbreak onset

Onset date of outbreak	Baseline LFD	Baseline PCR	4-7 days LFD	4-7 days PCR	New case detected	28 day recovery testing
04.08.2021	04.08.2021	04.08.2021	08-11.08.2021	08-11.08.2021	09.08.2021	05.09.2021