**Testing at private lab suspended following NHS Test and Trace investigation**

Following recent concerns locally, of people receiving negative PCR test results after they have previously tested positive on a Lateral Flow Device, NHS Test and Trace has investigated and PCR test analysis has been suspended at a private laboratory - Immensa Health Clinic Ltd in Wolverhampton.

While investigations are underway into the precise cause, NHS Test and Trace estimate that around 400,000 samples have been processed through the lab, the vast majority of which will have been negative results. An estimated 43,000 people may have been given incorrect negative PCR test results between 8th September and 12th October, mostly in the South West of England.

This is an isolated incident attributed to one laboratory. All samples taken after 12 October are now being redirected to other laboratories. The number of tests carried out at the Immensa laboratory are small in the context of the wider network and testing availability is unaffected around the country.

**NHS Test and Trace is contacting the people that could still be infectious to advise them to take another test.** Close contacts who are symptomatic will also be advised to take a PCR test in line with normal practice. Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms should book a PCR test.

We are advising people continue to use LFD and PCR tests as they normally would and to retest if still showing Covid-19 symptoms after receiving a negative PCR test result for tests taken before 13 October. The SCC PH advice remains, if you are showing any symptoms of Covid-19, or have a positive LFD test get a PCR test and if this is positive stay at home and self-isolate for ten days to avoid infecting others.

There are no technical issues with the LFD or PCR test kits themselves or at any testing site and people should continue to test as normal. Other labs are working normally.

If you will lose income by completing the self-isolation process or staying at home looking after a child who is self-isolating, you can apply for a support payment by visiting: [Claiming financial support under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme)

If you are concerned about how this might affect you or your family, please call the Somerset County Council Covid-19 support line on 0300 790 6275 or visit [Get help (somerset.gov.uk)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/get-help/)