Evaluation of Covid-19 LFD Test kits in Care Home Outbreaks:

Guidance Leaflet for Local Authority/Local Health Protection Teams

Thank you for talking with us earlier about the evaluation of the performance of COVID Test Kits in detecting current variants in Care Homes.

Explanation of what evaluation involves:

This evaluation will involve the routine LFD and PCR testing which is undertaken in care homes during outbreaks.

*Please note that these evaluations will not involve any changes to the current testing requirements. No additional testing, consent or data collection is needed, and it will not delay test results being reported.*

However, we will need to send participating homes some special test kits, which are the ones we need to evaluate, and which have special barcodes to help us access the data for the analysis.

* We will ask these care homes to use the test kits provided to test on their next outbreak whole-home testing day, which should take place between days 4 and 7 of outbreak.
* We’ll ask them to use the kits on all the staff and residents who would normally do their testing on-site at the care home.
* We will also ask them to do the LFDs before the PCRs and to do them close together.
* Please note: We will provide kits for one round of dual testing (1 x LFT and 1x PCR) per participant to be taken between Day 4 and 7. Any additional test kits needed by the care home should continue to be self-ordered via their standard process

Thank you for your help in identifying which care homes to invite to take part in the evaluation who have a reported outbreak in the past 24 hours

Identifying suitable care homes

Care homes that may be better suited to participating in the evaluation include:

* ones which are particularly well organised in their Covid testing and who may be more likely to use the kits in the way we require
* homes that have approximately 50 to 100 residents and staff (though if slightly smaller that is fine)

Further assistance needed from LA/HPT teams (where appropriate)

As discussed, homes need to be contacted promptly to discuss the evaluation so we can get the special kits to them at on the correct day. We will have agreed if this contact will be made by the LA/HPT team or by the Evaluation Team.

Care Homes approached about taking part should be asked to provide the following information which the Evaluation team need in order to dispatch the evaluation kits.

Information required for Evaluation kit ordering for each participating Care Home:

* The home name and address
* **The care homes UON (unique organisation number)**
* Contact person who the kits should be delivered to, including their name, telephone number and email address
* Approx. how many Staff and residents will be testing on site
* Any special delivery Instructions (for example delivery between 12-4 pm)

If you are contacting the care home on behalf of the Evaluation Team, please send an email with the above details to: phcoserviceevaluations@test-and-trace.nhs.uk

Ideally this is needed **before this 1pm on the day the home was identified** in order to get the kits sent out the same day. Orders places on Monday-Weds will be delivered within 48 hours, Orders placed on Thursday or Friday will arrive early the following week, but still within the day 4-7 window for the second round of whole-home testing. Any responses after the 1pm cu-off will still be processed, but the delivery will be an extra day later.

Thank you, your support is vital to the success of the evaluation. I’ll look forward to receiving your email confirming the participating sites within the next couple of hours. Please feel free to email the Evaluation team via: phcoserviceevaluations@test-and-trace.nhs.uk, or call me back if you have any queries or issues. My telephone number is: (0) 7542682287