

Community Pharmacy COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device Distribution Service

(Pharmacy Collect NI)

Phase two

Pharmacy Team Introductory Briefing

Background

COVID-19 lateral flow antigen tests allow the detection of people with high levels of the COVID-19 virus, making them effective in identifying individuals who are most likely to transmit the virus, including those not showing symptoms.

NHS Test and Trace research into routine mass testing shows participants prefer to access testing in the community, pharmacists are trusted by their local communities and unfamiliar new points of access are less well trusted; these findings have led to a Government decision to commission a distribution service from community pharmacies.

From 1st September 2021 the Department of Health NI has made lateral flow devices (LFD) available for collection from community pharmacies under the Pharmacy Collect NI service.

Brief overview of the service

The Pharmacy Collect NI Service allows individuals who fall within the specific eligible groups outlined by the Department of Health NI (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/covid-pharmacy-collect>) to collect LFD test kits from community pharmacies, so they can undertake testing as per current Department of Health (DoH) advice.

Please note: This link is for information only. Pharmacy staff do not have to check if someone requesting an LFD test kit is eligible.

Only **one** LFD test kit may be supplied per transaction.

There is no requirement for pharmacy staff to collect specific data on supply of LFD test kits beyond noting the number of transactions that occur on a weekly basis.

At the point of supplying a test kit, pharmacy staff should continue to provide the key information detailed in service specification and in addition, supply any patient information leaflet for the service if available.

When completing the eForm which is submitted to BSO for payment, pharmacy contractors need to submit the total number of transactions carried out per week.

People eligible to obtain LFD test kits via the service will self-administer the tests away from the pharmacy e.g. at home. The pharmacy is not involved in the generation of

test results, supporting the reporting of results or the next steps for the person taking the test.

Cartons of test kits will be supplied by a stipulated supply route.

Normal DoH procedures should be followed in the event of a recall. All staff involved in delivery of the service need to have read and understood the Pharmacy's SOP for the service.