

 Kingston GP Chambers Kingston Training Hub Clinical Services Practice Support Services Kingston Education Centre	Staff COVID Testing policy		Reviewed	March 2023
	Adopted	Dec 2022	Revised	
			Next review	March 2025

Staff COVID Testing policy

Date of nationally published guidance update: 31 August 2022

Link to published guidance is available [here](#).

Staff testing requirement:

NHS Staff are now only required to carry-out COVID testing if they have COVID symptoms. This includes any (or a combination) of the following:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

If a staff member experiences any of these symptoms, they should take a lateral flow test (LFT) before coming to work. These can be ordered via the online government portal.

If the staff member's LFT is negative, they can return to work as soon as they are well enough to do so.

If the staff member's LFT is positive, they must stay away from the practice (but can work remotely if appropriate). The staff member should take a further LFT on the 5th day after the start of their symptoms. If the test is negative, they should take a further LFT 24 hours later and if that is also negative, they may return to the practice.

If the LFT is positive, they should continue to test daily until they have received two negative results 24 hours apart. If the staff member is still testing positive on the 10th day after symptoms started, they should contact the practice manager who will conduct a risk assessment to decide whether it is safe for them to return to the practice.

Further information/queries: Speak to Ann Cox