

COVID-19: TESTING AND VACCINATION



If you're considering COVID-19 testing in your workplace, whether for employees, visitors or contractors, it's important that, first and foremost (and before you start), you discuss plans with your broker due to the potential implications for your liability insurance covers.

Similarly, if you're considering or are approached by a relevant authority about your premises / site being used as a testing facility (whether asymptomatic or symptomatic) or vaccination centre / hub, it's essential that a discussion with your broker takes place well in advance of any agreement being reached or finalised, recognising the potential implications for your insurance covers.

TESTING

Whilst guidance and regulation for those with COVID-19 symptoms is well established in the UK, the requirements and the availability of rapid lateral flow testing continues to evolve depending on where you operate or live.

With this in mind, you may find the following helpful*:

[Get a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) test if you're an HGV or van driver;](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested;](#)

[Working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\);](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): creating and maintaining safer workplaces](#) (Scotland);

[Business and employers: coronavirus](#) (Wales);

[Lateral flow testing for people without symptoms](#) (Wales);

[Guidance for professionals and organisations](#) (Public Health Agency Northern Ireland):

Along with the following links relevant to testing in the workplace*:

[Coronavirus Covid-19 testing guidance for employers](#)

[Coronavirus Covid-19 testing guidance for employers and third party healthcare providers](#)

[Coronavirus Covid-19 testing guidance for employers - a practical guide for employers who want to offer workplace testing for asymptomatic employees](#)

[Coronavirus Covid-19 testing guidance for employers - legal obligations](#)

In addition, an initial risk assessment and impact assessment should be completed, with specialist legal advice / guidance sought where appropriate, and arrangements for regular review established. Factors to consider include,

- who completes / oversees the testing;
- what is their competence;
- where is the testing going to be undertaken;
- what is the capacity of that area;
- booking systems and timeslots to manage numbers;
- separate access and egress points;



*to keep yourself fully up to date and identify any relevant changes to your business or specific circumstances, we'd recommend you regularly revisit these web sites.

- ventilation;
- dissemination of associated information, instruction and training to those being tested;
- provision of safe waiting areas;
- safe means of disposing of test kits;
- general hygiene and hand washing arrangements;
- social distancing;
- use of face coverings (those waiting to be tested, waiting for results or overseeing the area where testing is being completed);
- arrangements following a positive test;
- recording / retention of results and data protection considerations

Additional useful information, including how the lateral flow test works, how to take the test, who can be tested, location of test centres etc. can also be found at government websites, for example:

[understanding lateral flow antigen testing for people without symptoms](#)

Please remember:

- No tests are 100% accurate, with the potential for false positives and false negatives;
- Where a positive test is obtained, government / devolved institution regulations and guidance specific to isolation will need to be followed; and
- A negative test does not mean that other control measures identified through your risk assessments (e.g. working from home where possible, social distancing, use of face coverings, hand washing etc.) can be relaxed. Clear messaging for employees, visitors and any contractors that attend your premises or work for / with you is very important here, along with compliance monitoring and any corrective action identified, actioned and recorded.



VACCINATIONS

With the vaccination roll-out now well underway across the UK, you may find the following useful*:

[NHS England](#)

[NHS Inform Scotland](#)

[Public Health Wales](#)

[Northern Ireland](#)

[Covid-19 vaccination women of childbearing age currently pregnant planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding.](#)

If you have specific questions relating to the vaccine, potential side effects, the impact of allergies etc., then you should direct these to a suitably qualified medical professional.

Research on the impact of the various vaccines on transmission continues, so for those that have received a single dose or have been vaccinated (current vaccines

used in the UK require two doses), control measures identified through your risk assessments (e.g. working from home where possible, social distancing, use of face coverings, hand washing etc.) remain critical. Clear messaging for employees, visitors and any contractors that attend your premises or work for / with you is again very important.