20210413-LFD_Testing

14 Apr 21

All UK NATO and EJSU personnel

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF LATERAL FLOW DEVICES (LFD) FOR WORKPLACE ASYMPTOMATIC COVID-19 TESTING

References:

A. DAN27 dated 1 Apr 21: Testing of Asymptomatic Defence Personnel for COVID-19 Using Lateral Flow Devices.

B. Standard Operating Instructions on Defence Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing for the Overseas and Deployed Environment, dated 12 Mar 21.

1. The UK Government has made asymptomatic COVD-19 testing available to all UK citizens through Lateral Flow Devices (LFD). These tests are now being rolled out for workplace testing overseas for those who are required to be in their workplace for 2-days or more per week. **The use of these tests is entirely voluntary** and they cannot be used as a requirement for entry to workplaces; however, approximately 30% of infected individuals do not present symptoms in of COVID cases and so **we strongly encourage you to use these tests to help limit the spread of the virus within our social and professional communities**.

2. The LFDs provide rapid results within about 30-45 minutes, but are for asymptomatic testing only. Symptomatic testing must be carried out under medical supervision through a PCR test. Personnel with symptoms or who register a positive result on their twice weekly LFD test are to obtain a PCR test through their medical provider. Because of this requirement, workplace testing cannot be offered in locations where access to a subsequent PCR test is not available.

Eligibility

3. Whilst this rollout is through the MOD, agreement has been reached for these tests to be made available to UKDel personnel. If there are pers at your location who you consider should also have access to this test (such as outer office staff), please discuss this with Dep NMR or COS EJSU.

Process

4. All LFDs will be centrally ordered by EJSU J4 and then distributed to each location. SNRs are to determine an appropriate place(s) for collection by individuals, who will be asked to sign for a pack of 7 tests (each pack should last about 3 weeks). There is no specific time or day when the tests should be taken. Guides to conducting the test and reporting the results are at Annexes A and B respectively, and these will be consolidated into a leaflet for distribution at each test collection location.

5. Once tests have been taken, there is a MOD mandated requirement to record the results and the testing batch. EJSU has developed an i-process to simplify this (see Annex B)No personal information is required. This, however, places the emphasis on you to ensure that this action is completed and, importantly, that you report a positive result to your healthcare provider (details will be provided on the webpage if “positive” is selected).

6. Note that the role of this testing is to catch only some of the asymptomatic cases, which would otherwise be missed. LFD are not sensitive enough to confirm beyond doubt that an individual does not have COVID 19, but are just one tool to reduce transmission. Consequently, your access to these tests and receipt of a negative result must not be reasons to change the personal actions that you will be taking to prevent either infection or your inadvertent transmission of the virus to others.

DNMR **COS EJSU**

Annexes:

A. Guide To Conducting Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing.
B. Reporting the Results from Lateral Flow Devices (LFD).

ANNEX A TO
20210412-LFD_Testing
Dated 14 Apr 21

GUIDE TO CONDUCTING LATERAL FLOW DEVICE (LFD) TESTING

1. Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) detect a protein (antigen) produced by the virus at its infectious stage. The test is performed by conducting a swab in a similar way to the PCR test. The swab is then brought in to contact with a reagent and the reagent is then brought in to contact with the LFD. The LFD is similar in appearance to a pregnancy test. Once charged, the LFD will show a “C line” if it is functioning correctly. If the test is positive a “T line” will appear after 20 minutes. The LFDs must be stored between 2oC to 30oC and testing must be conducted at an ambient temperature of 15C to 30oC.

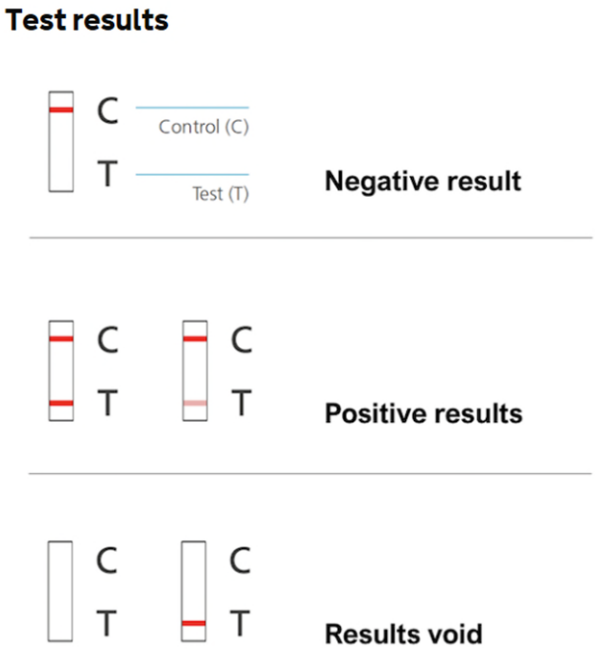
2. LFDs come in packs of 7 and each test can only be used once. Each testing kit will look similar to the photograph below, and comprises a Disposable Sampling Swab, a plastic Extraction Tube, a sealed Test Cartridge and a Reagent bottle.

3. The sample can be taken by either inserting the Swab into the nose or the mouth. For the mouth the swab tip should be wiped across the back of the throat in the tonsil area on both sides at least three times on each side. For the nose the swab should be inserted

into the nostril until resistance is encountered and rolled inside the nostril 5 times. This process should be repeated in the other nostril.

4. Following the test, a few drops of reagent should be placed in the Extraction Tube from the reagent sachet. The swab should then be dipped into the reagent in the Extraction Tube for a period of 10 seconds. As much liquid should be squeezed from the swab as possible. Dispose of the swab safely. The Extraction tube has a plastic nozzle that needs to be fixed to the open end. Once this has been done the Test Cartridge should be removed from the plastic wrapper. This looks similar to a pregnancy test. Two drops of the liquid in the Extraction Tube should be placed into the sample well of the Test Cartridge. This process should be carried out at normal room temperature (15-30^{o}C).

5. **Results**. A positive test will display both a “C” and “T” line.



6. **Subsequent Actions**. On completion of each Test, all personnel are to complete the online form referred to at Annex B. In addition:

a. Negative. Personnel who return a negative test result do not need to self-isolate (unless otherwise required, for example clinically indicated).

b. Positive. Personnel who return a positive LFD result are legally obliged to self-isolate immediately after receiving notification of their result. They must also inform their healthcare provider, the details for which will appear if “positive” is selected in the Reporting form. **Note a weak positive result where the ‘T’ line is not as strong as the ‘C’ line should still be considered positive**.

c. Invalid. Personnel who return invalid/void results should undertake another test immediately and report the void test.

ANNEX B TO
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REPORTING THE RESULTS FROM LATERAL FLOW DEVICES (LFD)

1. In the event of a Positive result from the LFD, in addition to self-isolation, personnel are required to obtain a PCR test as soon as possible. Positive tests must also be reported via medical chains.

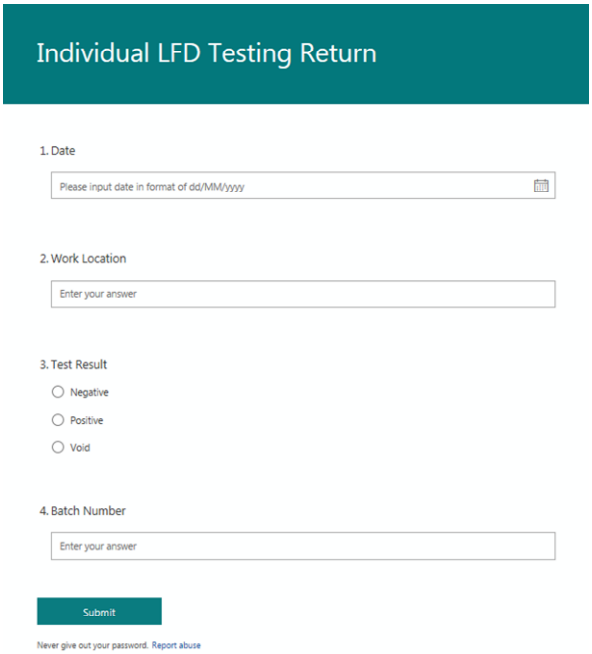
2. For all LFDs, reporting is required to ensure the quality of the testing process. Each test taken must be recorded and the results sent to the DHSC through STRATCOM.

3. In order to make this process as simple as possible, each test result should be submitted by downloading an online form. This form can be accessed:

   a. At the following link: https://forms.office.com/r/gphqYweW66

   b. Through the following QR Code:

4. Upon accessing the link or code, you will be presented with the following form:



Note that no personal details are required. The information provided will be consolidated by EJSU and forwarded to STRATCOM on a weekly basis.