

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 20c to 30c and testing must be conducted at an ambient temperature of 15C to 30cC.

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.

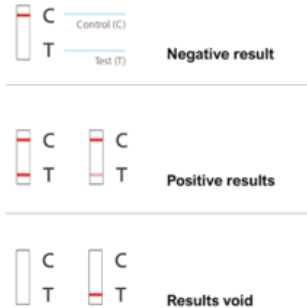


3. The sample can be taken by either inserting the Swab into the nose or the mouth. For the mouth the swab tip should be wiped across the back of the throat in the tonsil area on both sides at least three times on each side. For the nose the swab should be inserted into the nostril until resistance is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

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

Test results



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.

Note that the role of this testing is to catch only some of the asymptomatic cases which would otherwise be missed. They are not sensitive enough to confirm beyond doubt that an individual does not have COVID 19 but are just one tool to reduce transmission. Individuals who opt in should receive reinforcing guidance that a negative result must not change behaviour.

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.