

COVID-19 Kent & Medway Testing Strategy

April Version

Date Last Updated: 16 April 2021

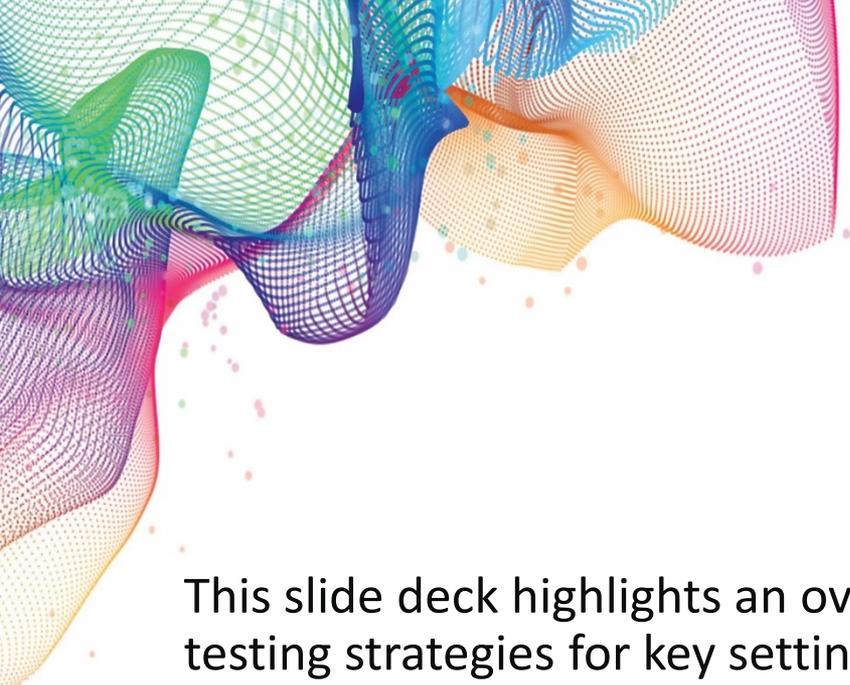
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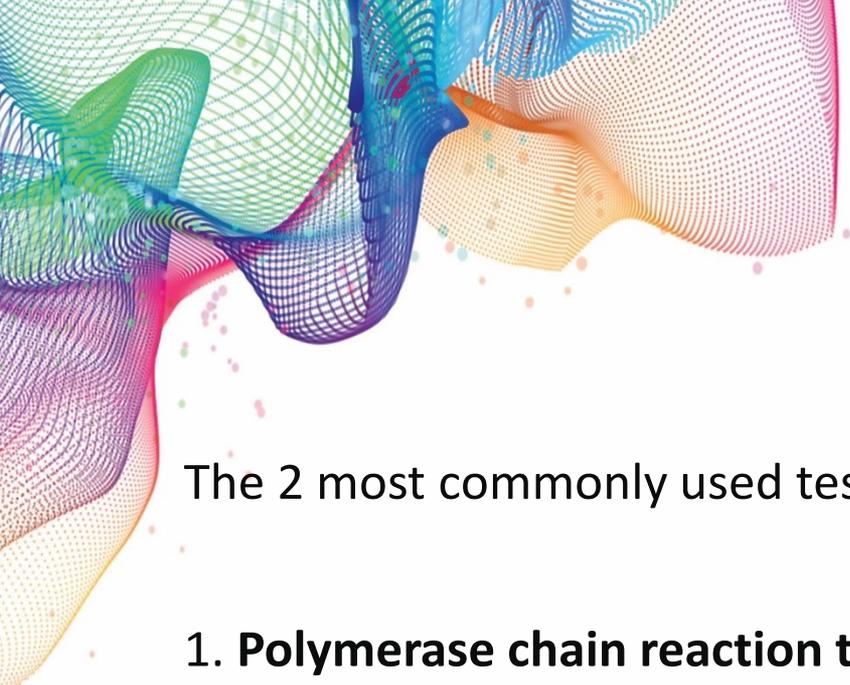


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Introduction

This slide deck highlights an overview of current Kent and Medway COVID-19 testing strategies for key settings including schools, hospitals, care homes, community testing sites amongst others. These strategies include what test should be taken, testing frequency, and testing locations.





PCR & LFD Tests

The 2 most commonly used tests to check for COVID-19 are:

1. **Polymerase chain reaction test (PCR)**- primarily for those symptomatic for COVID-19.

- Main symptoms include fever, persistent cough, loss of taste and smell and shortness of breath.

2. **Rapid lateral flow device tests (LFD)** - only for people without symptoms for COVID-19.

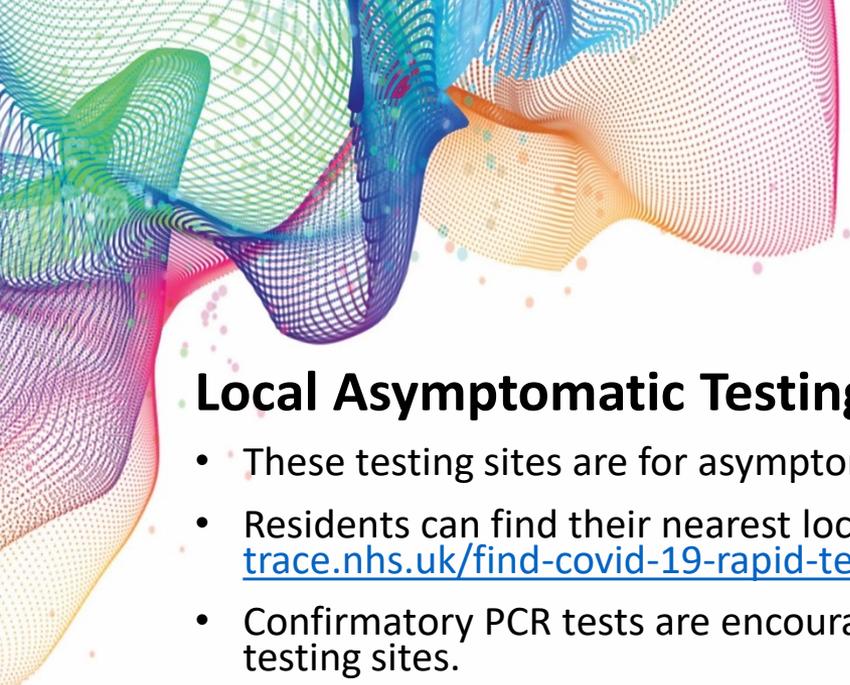




Testing for everyone in England

- From 9 April 2021, all asymptomatic individuals in England are encouraged to access twice-weekly LFD tests.
- Routes to accessing LFD tests include:
- **Workplace testing:** This route is the best option if one's employer offers workplace testing. This is either through supervised test on site or workplace collect where you can pick up a box of tests to use at home.
- **Community testing:** At a local testing site where one can take a supervised test onsite or collect
- **NHS Test & Trace sites-** symptomatic testing sites offering afternoon collect option
- **Pharmacy collect-** for pickup of free box of tests to use at home at pharmacies that have signed up to offer this service
- **Education-** secondary and college students
- **LFD Direct-** ordering a box of test online or through 119 to be delivered to one's home. This is only for people who cannot access tests through other routes.





Community Testing

Local Asymptomatic Testing Sites

- These testing sites are for asymptomatic individuals **ONLY**.
- Residents can find their nearest local asymptomatic testing sites here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites>.
- Confirmatory PCR tests are encouraged following a positive LFD test at local asymptomatic testing sites.

Community Collect

- Frequency: Twice-weekly
- An individual can order kits to test their household, childcare bubble or support bubble with LFD test if at least one member:
 - is a school, nursery or college pupil
 - works in a school, nursery or college (this includes temporary workers or volunteers)
- Additionally, Both Medway and Kent have the discretion to expand eligibility for the use of home-test kits in accordance with local priorities. This expansion will enable disproportionately impacted communities and groups most at risk of transmission or infection to have access to home-test kits.





- In Kent, local symptomatic testing sites (NHS Test & Trace sites) have been repurposed as collection points for home testing kits. These sites are open for symptomatic testing in the morning and reopen at 13:30-19:00 for collection.
- Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with COVID-19 symptoms outside these times.
- Residents can find their nearest collection point here: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- Alternatively, residents can order home LFD test kits [here](#).
- Confirmatory PCR test is required following a positive LFD test.



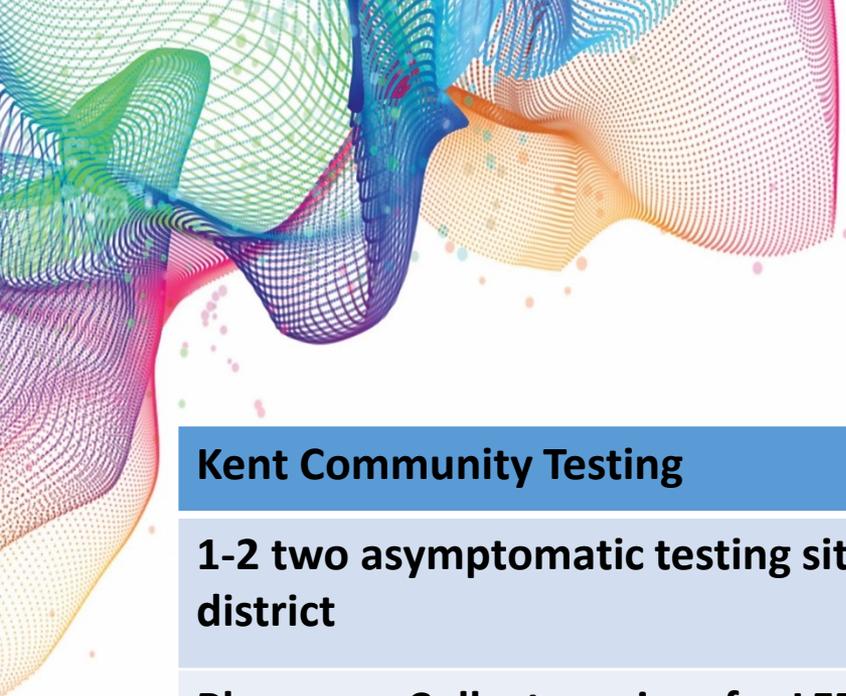


Pharmacy Collect

- Allows asymptomatic people to collect LFD test kits, free of charge, from community pharmacies, so they can undertake regular testing.
- Pharmacy contractors can choose to provide this service.
- People will self-administer the LFD tests away from 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.
- Find a pharmacy where you can collect LFD test kits here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Confirmatory PCR test is required following a positive LFD test.





Difference Between Kent & Medway Community Testing

Kent Community Testing	Medway Community Testing
1-2 two asymptomatic testing sites per district	Five main asymptomatic testing sites
Pharmacy Collect services for LFD tests	Mobile teams will work out of targeted pop-up sites
	Three areas for click and collect
	Pharmacy Collect services for LFD tests



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Households with Primary, Secondary, and College Age Children

- All households are encouraged to start regular twice-weekly LFD testing with tests available for adults in these households to collect.
- Student testing is encouraged but not mandatory.
- **Confirmatory PCR test is required following positive lateral flow tests. This can be done either through ordering PCR test kits online or walk-in at a local PCR testing site.**
- If PCR test following a positive LFD test conducted at home is negative, they and their household and close contacts can stop isolating.
- A positive PCR test result in means the person and their household must complete a 10-day isolation period.
- A positive LFD test result also means that the person and their household must complete 10 days isolation.





Primary Schools

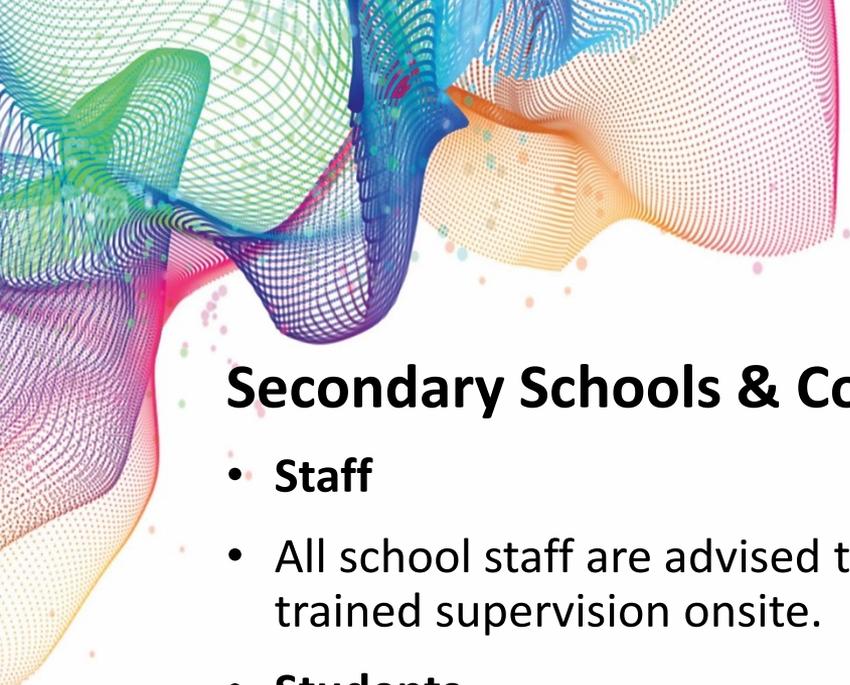
Staff

- Staff are advised to continue to take two weekly LFD tests at home

Students

- Primary school students do not need to undertake regular LFD tests due to low levels of COVID-19 transmission between younger aged children.





Secondary Schools & College

- **Staff**
 - All school staff are advised to take LFD tests weekly, 3-4 days apart, under trained supervision onsite.
- **Students**
 - After returning to school, secondary school students are advised to take twice-weekly LFD tests at home.
 - Any student who test positive after an LFD test either at home or in school are advised to commence self-isolation and book a confirmatory PCR test either online or via 119.
 - A negative confirmatory PCR test means a student can return to school while a positive confirmatory PCR test means a student must continue to self-isolate.



Education

Universities

- Currently, university students on practical courses requiring face-to-face on campus teaching are allowed back on campus.
- Before coming to campus, students and staff are advised to take 2 LFD tests each 3-4 days apart, until a negative test is confirmed.
- Thereafter, students are advised to take twice-weekly LFD tests.
- Follow this link to book a [test at a site near you online](#).





Early Years Private Nurseries

- Private nursery staff and registered childminders will have access to twice-weekly LFD tests at home before travelling into work.
- Tests are provided to staff via the nursery.
- Childminders can still access asymptomatic testing through local community testing sites.

Children's Care Homes

- Staff and residents are not required to take frequent LFD tests.
- Staff and residents will have access to PCR test only when symptomatic.
- PCR tests can be collected from testing site or delivered at home. To book a free PCR test appointment online or order a PCR home test kit follow the link [here](#) or alternatively call 119 to order home PCR test kits.





Adult Social Care

Adult and Elderly Care Homes/Hospices

Care Home COVID-19 Testing guidance for regular resident testing using PCR, and regular staff testing using PCR and LFD test kits can be found [here](#).

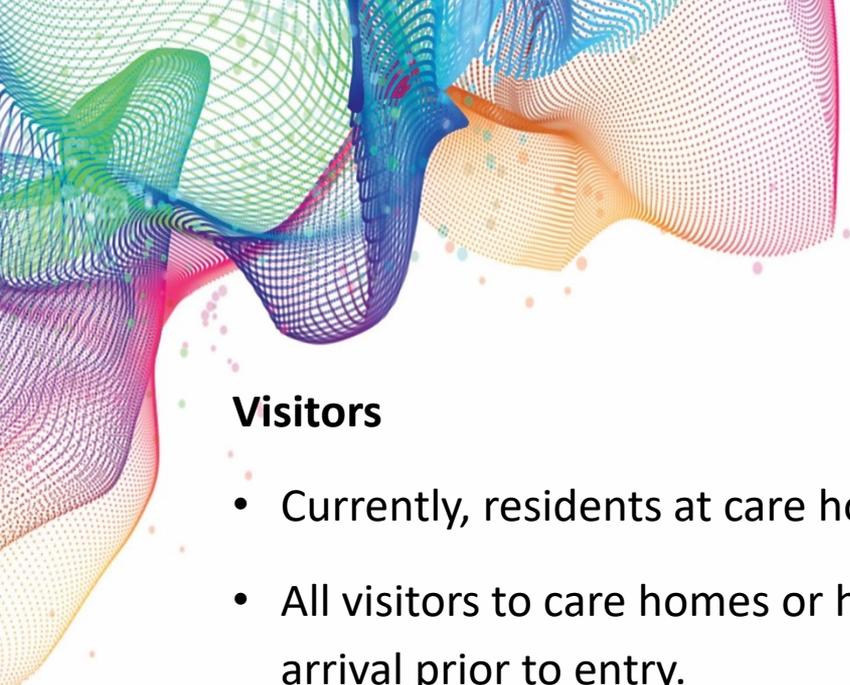
Staff

- All asymptomatic staff are advised to test weekly using PCR test kits on the same day each week.
- Staff should also be tested twice-weekly using LFD test on the same day as the weekly PCR and with an additional LFD test 3 or 4 days after their regular PCR test.

Residents

- All residents are advised to be tested monthly with PCR test kits and immediately if they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- New residents are advised to be tested with PCR test kits when they join care homes.





Visitors

- Currently, residents at care homes are allowed one visitor.
- All visitors to care homes or hospices are advised to have tested using LFD on arrival prior to entry.
- Care homes and hospices are to provide tests and site for testing.
- Further information can be found [here](#).





Domiciliary Care

- **This is a registered homecare organisation/agency.**
- All agency staff and carers are advised to take weekly PCR test.
- All registered homecare agencies will be contacted with details of how to apply for PCR test kits for their carers.
- An organisation is eligible if they are a Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulated homecare organisation in England providing personal care.
- Organisations that match criteria but have not been contacted by NHS Test & Trace with information on how to order tests should contact 119.
- Further information can be found [here](#).





Personal Assistances (PAs)

- **This is someone who is directly employed by an individual (or self-employed) to provide care and support to enable them live as independently as possible.**
- All PAs are advised to take a weekly PCR test.
- PAs will be able to order a month's supply of PCR test kits every 28 days, delivered to their home address, enabling them to conduct weekly testing at home.
- Every 7 days a personal assistant should take a test, register it online, and return it by post.
- Results arrive via email and text.
- Further information available [here](#).





Adult Day Care Centres

- Staff are advised to take a weekly PCR test.
- 4 kits should be supplied to each worker every 28 days.
- Every 7 days, between Thursday and Sunday, a day care centre worker should take a PCR test, register it online, and return it by post via Royal Mail priority box same day.
- Results arrive via email and text.
- Further details can be found [here](#) and [here](#).





Workplace Settings

- Businesses that have signed up for LFD tests will be provided with test kits till June 2021 in both Kent and Medway.
- In Medway, staff can access LFD tests twice-weekly at asymptomatic testing sites for their workplaces.
- Testing in workplaces will be conducted using LFDs.



Primary Care

This is the day-to-day healthcare given by a healthcare provider. These include General Practice (GP), community pharmacy, dental, and optometry services.

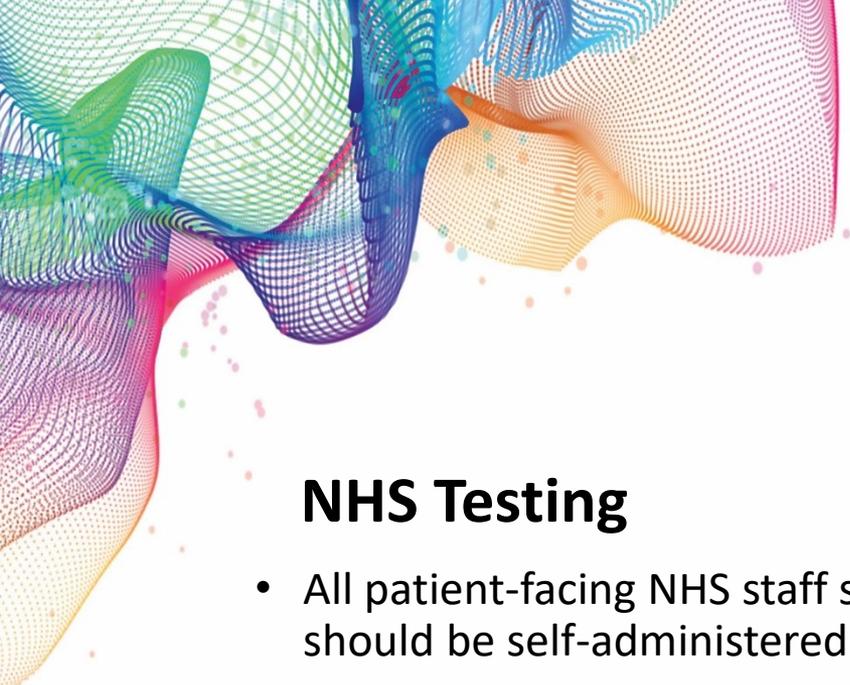
Note: Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms should not present at a GP and should isolate immediately and get tested either by ordering a PCR test online or attending a symptomatic testing centre.

General Practice

Symptomatic patients, GP staff and household should test using PCR.

- GPs can order PCR tests to be used with symptomatic patients who present in clinic.
- Tests will also be available for symptomatic GP staff and their symptomatic household members to support general practice. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- Testing should be self-administered as far as possible.

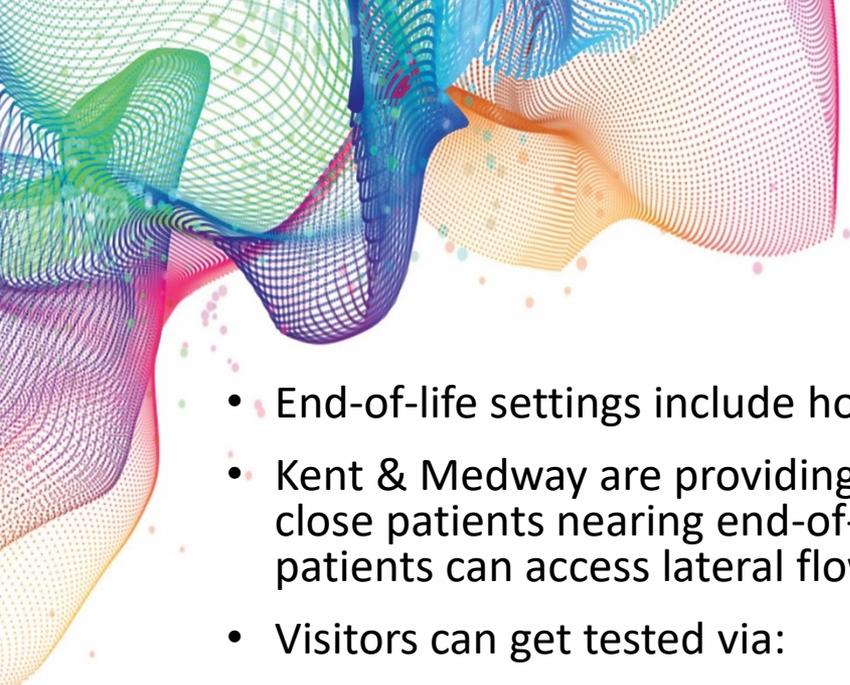




NHS Testing

- All patient-facing NHS staff should be tested with LFD twice-weekly, and this should be self-administered at home.
- Mental health patients are tested via routine laboratory PCR test.
- Cancer and renal dialysis patients are tested via laboratory PCR test.

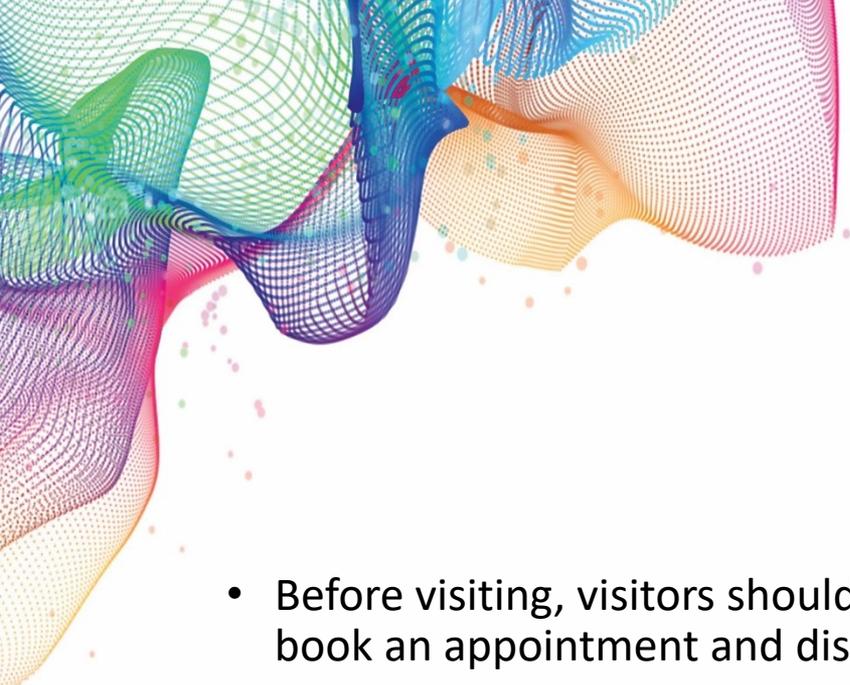




Visiting End-of-Life Settings

- End-of-life settings include hospital settings, hospices, and care homes.
- Kent & Medway are providing a fast-track system for visitors that need to visit close patients nearing end-of-life. Visitors including relatives or friends of patients can access lateral flow testing via **community testing**.
- Visitors can get tested via:
 - Click and Collect- Collection of home LFD kits from local testing centres. Visitors can find their nearest collection point here: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
 - Walk-in- Visitors can walk into a local asymptomatic/symptom-free testing centre. **No booking required**. Visitors can find their nearest local asymptomatic testing sites here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites>
- Visitors are advised to confirm opening hours online before going to a test centre.
- Relatives or friends must test negative to LFD prior to each visit.





- Before visiting, visitors should contact the ward department or service setting to book an appointment and discuss appropriate local arrangements.
- Visitors should provide evidence of a negative LFD test taken before entry into service setting. This can be in the form of a text or email displayed on mobile phones.





90-day window after a positive test

- If someone tests positive with a PCR test, they should not be tested using PCR or LFD for 90 days, unless they develop new symptoms during this time.
- This policy cuts across Adult Social Care, NHS, and professionals visiting care home who have received a positive PCR result in the last 90 days.



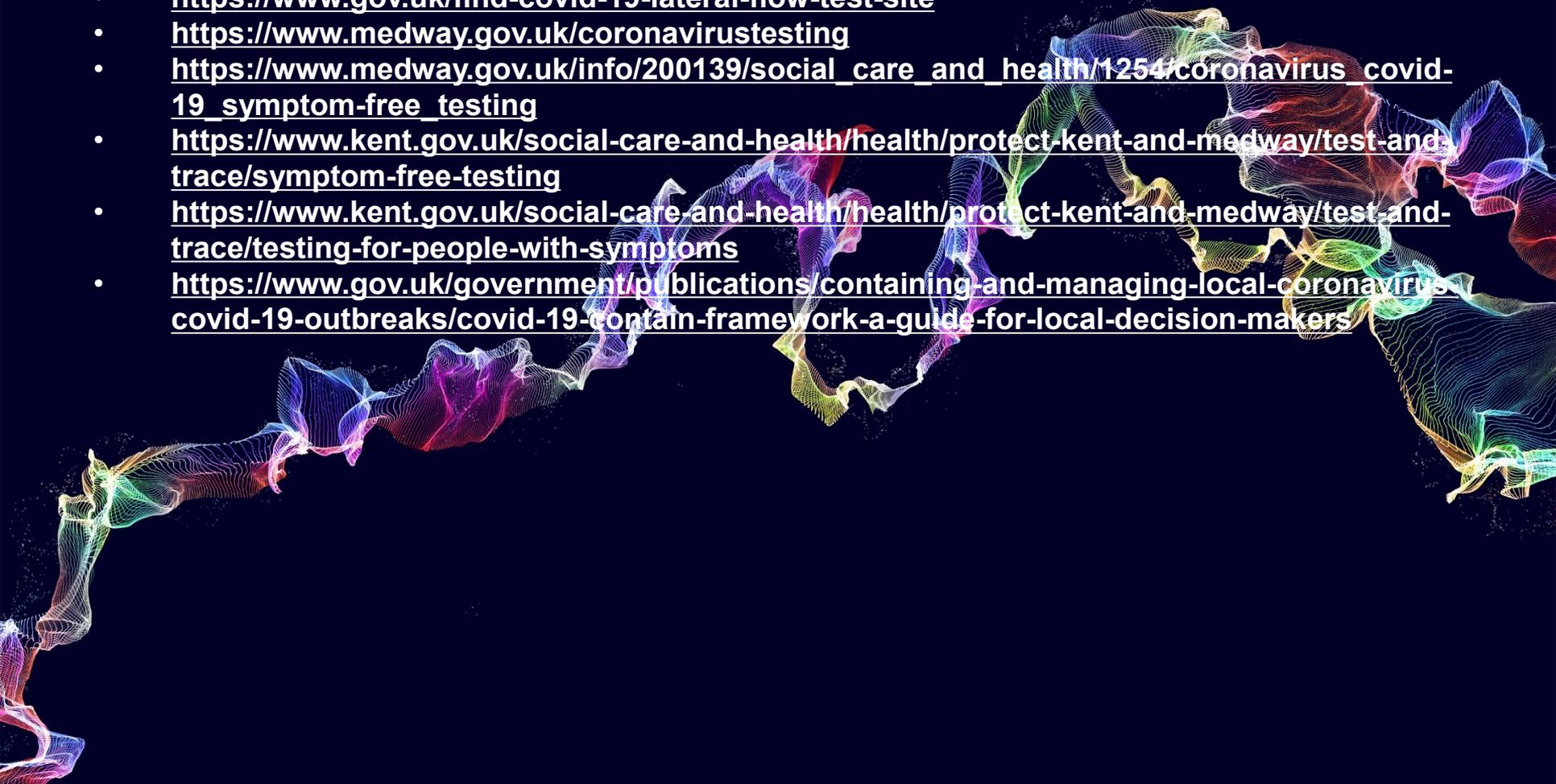
Ordering/Booking Tests

Method	Details
For ordering PCR tests (displaying COVID-19 symptoms):	Ring 119 Alternatively visit: https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/essential-worker
For ordering Lateral Flow tests (displaying no COVID-19 symptoms):	Ring 119 Alternatively visit: https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
Workplace Testing- For ordering Lateral Flow tests (for employers to test employees):	Visit: https://www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests
For collecting Lateral Flow test kits:	Find your nearest collection point: https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/
Booking in-person/walk-through Lateral Flow test:	Find your nearest asymptomatic local testing site: https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/ Note: You may need to book an appointment



For More Information:

- <https://www.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-coronavirus>
- <https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site>
- <https://www.medway.gov.uk/coronavirustesting>
- [https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200139/social_care_and_health/1254/coronavirus covid-19 symptom-free testing](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200139/social_care_and_health/1254/coronavirus_covid-19_symptom-free_testing)
- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/symptom-free-testing>
- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/testing-for-people-with-symptoms>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers>



**For further enquires on our testing
strategy contact:**

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Thank You