

LAMP Asymptomatic Staff Testing Programme and revised DHSC Guidance for Health Care Professionals Visiting Care Homes

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Introduction/Background

- Vast majority of Trust staff now fully vaccinated but still possible to catch/spread COVID -19 while displaying no symptoms of virus
- Essential that all staff participate in testing programme identifying asymptomatic cases to limit spread of virus in order to protect themselves and patients
- As Trust have been active participant in LAMP(Loop – mediated Isothermal Amplification) saliva testing programme promoted and endorsed by DHSC for all staff since mid 2021
- Highly accurate, reliable and produces fast results

Revised DHSC Guidance for Care Homes Around Visiting Health Care Professionals

- Guidance strengthens existing approach for testing professional visitors to care homes in order to reduce risks from visits from professionals
- Care homes should see evidence from professional of negative lateral flow test within last 72 hours showing they are following NHS staff testing regime or
- NHS professionals visiting care homes should be granted entry if they have a negative test result as part of weekly staff testing using LAMP technology
- Care Homes to ask NHS professional when last tested and see proof of result and date of relevant professional's test

Next Steps

- Trust Community staff entering Care Homes as part of role will be advised that with effect from week commencing 8th November they can participate in LAMP testing programme and produce negative test results to obtain entry
- Letter summarising and including the new Guidance signed by Trust Chief Executive and Vale of York CCG Accountable Officer will be circulated round all Care Homes in locality
- The co-operation of Care Home Owners and Managers in sharing this with their staff is appreciated