

Care Settings Q&A on Visiting Professionals

Vaccinations

Q: Do Visiting professionals need to be vaccinated?

A: Yes, any professional who is going to have access inside the setting/home must be fully vaccinated with both doses and have +14 days post second dose or have a medical exemption.

Q: We have an under 18 working within the home, do they need to be vaccinated?

A: No, Visiting professionals who are under 18 can enter the care home without showing proof of vaccination status, but may need to demonstrate proof that they are under 18. As soon as they turn 18, they will not be able to enter the residence until they have had a full course of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Q: Does a visiting professional need to be vaccinated to have access to outside the setting?

A: No, if the visiting professional is only going to be accessing outside the home and not coming inside they do not need to be fully vaccinated.

Q: A visiting professional has shown me the NHS appointment card, is this acceptable?

A: No, a NHS appointment card cannot be used as proof of vaccination status.

Q: How can a visiting professional show proof of their vaccination status?

A: A visiting professional can show proof of vaccination status using:

- NHS App
- Through the NHS Website
- NHS COVID Pass Letter

Q: The visiting professional is from Scotland/Wales, how can they show me their vaccination status?

A: Professionals from Scotland can obtain a record of their COVID-19 vaccination status from [nhsinformscot](https://nhs.uk/informscot).

Professionals from Wales can obtain a record of their COVID-19 vaccination status from gov.wales.

Q: The Visiting professional was vaccinated abroad, how can they show me their vaccination status?

A: Individuals can self-certify if they are vaccinated abroad by following the guidance, they will be able to show you the medical exemption certificate.

Q: Do I need to see proof of booster or flu vaccinations?

A: No, these are not a mandatory to professionals working in care settings.

Q: We have a Visiting Professional attending due to an Emergency, do I need to see their vaccine status?

A: No, any professional attending for emergency assistance does not need to show proof of vaccination or medical exemption.

Q: What counts as an emergency situation for Vaccination and Testing?

A: An emergency situation could include (but is not limited to):

- members of the public assisting in the event of flood or fire
- social workers responding to immediate safeguarding concerns
- members of the fire and rescue services attending the care home to execute their duties
- members of the police service attending the care home to execute their duties
- members of the health service deployed for emergency response

Testing and Testing Results

Q: Do visiting professionals need to show proof of negative test result?

A: Yes, a visiting professional should show proof of testing.

Q: How can a visiting professional show proof of negative test result?

A: This can be done through:

- an email or text from NHS Test and Trace
- a date-stamped photo of the test cartridge itself
- a screenshot of where the professional has to upload their test result (in the case of NHS or CQC professionals)
- signed confirmation from their manager (in the case of NHS or CQC professionals)
- the NHS signed log included with the test kits provided to NHS staff (in the case of NHS or CQC professionals)

Q: A Visiting professional who is a part of a regular testing regime has shown me are more than 3 days old test result, can I still accept this?

A: No, if a test result is more than 72 hours old it cannot be accepted and the individual should do a test before entering inside the setting.

Q: We have maintenance worker doing work outside the home/within the grounds. Do they need to have a negative test result?

A: No, if the worker is not going to be entering inside the home/setting, they do not need to show a negative test result

Q: The Visiting professional is not part of a regularly tested organisation i.e NHS/ CQC, what should I do?

A: Professionals who are not part of a regular testing regime should be tested on site before entering the care setting.

Q: The Visiting Professional has been at multiple homes and is not part of a regular testing regime, what do I do?

A: If the individual has been to a site prior, they will have had to complete a LFD test and should have a text/email confirmation of the results. This is enough evidence of a negative result and the individual does not need to do an additional test

Q: We have a Visiting Professional attending due to an Emergency, do I need to see proof of a negative test result?

A: No, any professional attending for emergency assistance does not need to show proof a negative test result.

Q: The Visiting professional has said that they do not need to do an LFD test as they are within their 90 day window, what does this mean?

A: Professionals who have recently tested positive for COVID-19 using a PCR test should not be retested within 90 days unless they develop new symptoms. This means that some professionals will not need to be tested regularly because they will still fall into this 90-day window.

Q: A Visiting professional has shown me a positive PCR test from the last 90 days, should they retest?

A: No, the professional is showing that they are within their 90 day window so do not need to retest, however if it has been longer than this or have developed new symptoms they will have to retest or begin their testing regime (if NHS or CQC)

Q: The visiting professional has come back with a void/invalid result, what should I do?

A: The individual should complete another test, if the additional test comes back void/invalid, the professional should continue to work as normal and undertake a further rapid LFT on the next day, and in the meantime show evidence of their void results.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes: operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-of-people-working-or-deployed-in-care-homes-operational-guidance)