

## **Lateral Flow Testing Policy**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Policy is to provide information on Christie's Care Ltd's daily running of a Lateral Flow Testing site within Rose House, Saxmundham (Head Office) and deployment of LFD's across our setting.

We have set up a team led by the Registered Manager and Head of Quality and Safeguarding to respond to LFD testing and planning. Government advice is checked daily. Any action points will be communicated with staff and stakeholders as and when necessary.

Christies Care Ltd accepts the emphasis of the guidance that all employers must play their part in preventing and controlling the spread of infection by:

- Making workplaces as safe as possible.
- Encouraging staff/workers to act appropriately on notifications to self-isolate and support them when in isolation.

Christies Care Ltd already applies all public health infection control guidance to make the care setting as safe as possible with, for example:

- carrying out Covid-19 risk assessments in line with health and safety and infection control guidance and the care regulations, and putting appropriate risk control measures in place from the assessments
- rigorously enforcing all recommended handwashing and related hygiene practices and cleaning procedures
- maintaining physical distancing and other measures to prevent droplet transmissions, including the appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
- organising the work environment to enable physical distancing and reduction of personal contacts that might help infection spread.
- promptly enabling any staff with symptoms of Covid-19 to self-isolate and seek any required medical treatment; similarly, with any staff whom it is known are in direct contact with someone who has tested positive or has symptoms of the illness.

### **Intention**

Christies Care Ltd will support the twice weekly LFD testing of all homecare workers in adult social care. This will run in conjunction to the DHSC PCR weekly testing scheme.

The testing site will be registered with DHSC and the results will be reported to the national T&T.

Regular testing will identify those with high viral load so it would be better to test repeatedly or regularly. We will be testing up to twice weekly alongside the weekly PCR Testing. To assist in Christies Care's ongoing Infection Control.

Lateral flow testing is a powerful tool to help identify asymptomatic cases in the community before they transmit.

Evidence shows LFDs are effective in identifying cases with high viral loads.

LFDs can be used alongside other COVID-secure measures to help prevent transmission.

It is the assumption of Christies Care that all staff, carers and clients will support the implementation and ongoing testing of LFD. It is assumed that everyone will support being tested. Being LFD tested protects those receiving care from infection passed to them by homecare workers who are confirmed positive. Prevents and controls the spread of the virus by identifying asymptomatic cases.

### **Benefits of LFD testing for Christies Care**

- LFDs can be used on-site by trained staff and do not require lab processing.
- The quick turnaround of results (30 minutes) allows for rapid isolation of cases and to Risk Assessment regarding Carers, clients and staff.
- Regular testing in a setting maximises the chances of finding cases before asymptomatic transmission occurs.
- Prevalence remains high and the new variant means there are more people with a high viral load.
- Enhanced level of Risk Assessing alongside weekly PCR testing.

### **What is the purpose of the testing?**

- To enable Christies Care to rapidly identify any high-risk carers, staff or client.
- Being LFD tested protects those receiving care from infection passed to them by homecare workers who are confirmed positive.
- Prevents and controls the spread of the virus by identifying asymptomatic cases.
- Will enable business continuity.
- Support our High Risk setting

### **Training**

Online training package (approx. 2 hours)

Access the training platform here:

<https://go.tessello.co.uk/TestDeviceTraining/>

Token code: 3wkcVi4UTX

All staff identified as Testing Operatives will be briefed/trained on PPE/IPC

Christies Care will display the appropriate signage within the Site Test Centre.

### **Infection Control**

Christies Care will clean the area and wipe down the chair and desk in between tests and apply the normal COVID cleaning procedures.

The plastic chairs and tables will be cleaned with alcohol-based cleaning products between tests and enough time will be left in between testings to do this.

There is also good ventilation in the testing site area.

From 26th January 2021, LFT positive test results no longer requires a PCR test confirmation for the next 2 months.

**Contact information:**

[gavin.wood@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:gavin.wood@suffolk.gov.uk) (Quality Assurance Lead)

Support, guidance and first point of contact for enquiries

Consultations

Site visits / dry runs

[Mashbileg.Maidrag@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Mashbileg.Maidrag@suffolk.gov.uk) (Consultant Lead)

Sign off/approval of testing plans

Public health expertise/concerns

Issues/escalation

[Alison.huxley@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.huxley@suffolk.gov.uk)

Operational issues/ escalation

Equipment

Written by: Registered Manager February 2021