

6. Staff respiratory virus and COVID-19 testing and return to work advice

Staff	Indication for Test	Advice
Symptomatic staff member (unless routinely caring for solid organ transplant recipients, stem cell transplant and haematology patients)	No indication	Do not test If home testing has been carried out and result is COVID-19 positive - return to work 5 days after positive test, providing fever has resolved and the staff member is feeling better and is immuno-competent <i>(if staff member is immunosuppressed, please escalate to line manager who can contact OH/IPC/virology if advice required)</i>
Symptomatic staff routinely caring for solid organ transplant recipients, stem cell transplant and haematology patients	Prevention of infection in immuno-compromised patients	Lateral flow device COVID test recommended if symptomatic. <u>If COVID-19 positive</u> — return to work 5 days after positive test, providing fever has resolved and the staff member is feeling better and is immunocompetent. In addition, a negative lateral flow test is required prior to return to work if working on wards J88/89/94/96
Asymptomatic staff member	No indication	Do not test
Asymptomatic staff member caring for immunocompromised patients	No indication	Do not test

If staff members have symptoms of respiratory viral infection and are not eligible for diagnostic testing (or have tested COVID-19 negative), staff should stay off work until fever is absent and feeling well enough to work. Mask wearing could also be considered if mild symptoms still present on return to work.