

Sir Frank Atherton
Prif Swyddog Meddygol/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru
Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Your NHS number: [NHS NUMBER]

[XX] April 2022

Dear [Patient],

Important information about coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for people eligible for antiviral treatment

In March, we announced changes to coronavirus testing in Wales as we move beyond the emergency response to the pandemic to living safely with the virus. The changes mean that since 31 March most people are no longer able to obtain free Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) for routine asymptomatic testing or PCR tests when you have symptoms of COVID-19.

Between 1 April and 30 June we will transition to a more sustainable approach after which LFTs will no longer be available unless you are in a specified priority group.

It has previously been identified that you may be eligible for antiviral treatment if you test positive for COVID-19. Treatment is only available to people who test positive for COVID-19 and needs to be started within 5 days of having symptoms. You will need to test, get your result, be assessed and start treatment within this time. To ensure you can access treatment within 5 days, you will continue to be eligible to receive free LFTs and PCR tests.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, the fastest way to get treatment is to use an LFT and report the result online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119 between 7am and 11pm (calls are free). This means you should keep a pack of LFTs at home in case you develop symptoms.

To help keep you safe, during the transition period we are also making free LFTs available to your family, friends and carers so that they can test themselves before visiting you. You may wish to let people know that they can access LFTs for this purpose.

You and your family, friends or carers can order LFTs online at www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or by calling 119.

If you have COVID symptoms but your LFT result is negative you should take a PCR test. To allow you to test as soon as possible, in April you will receive a PCR kit through the post. **Please keep the kit safe in case you begin to experience symptoms and need to test yourself.**

The kits will include instructions for use but it's worth noting:



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NQ Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ
Epost/Email: PSChiefMedicalOfficer@gov.wales

- It is important to register the kit before returning it so that we can match the test result to you
- To register the kit you will need your postcode and, ideally, your NHS number
- If you return your test and don't receive your test results within 48 hours you should call 119.
- If you use your test, you can order a replacement by calling 119.

In most cases, if you test positive for COVID-19 and are eligible for treatment, you should expect the National Antiviral Service or your local health board to contact you. If you haven't been contacted within 48 hours of receiving your positive test result you should contact NHS 111 Wales by telephoning 111.

Further information about what happens after you test positive can be found on the National Antiviral Service website at <https://www.wmic.wales.nhs.uk/navs-cymru/>

More information about who is eligible for treatment and when and how to contact a healthcare professional is available at <https://gov.wales/covid-19-treatments>.

You can find out more about how Digital Health and Care Wales handles your personal data as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic at <https://dhcw.nhs.wales/files/privacy-notices/eng-covidprivacynotice-april2021-pdf/>

If this letter is addressed to someone who does not live at your address, please return it to the address on the back of the envelope. Please use the envelope it came in, ensure the original address is visible in the window, write on the envelope 'not known at this address', and post in a post box. You do not need to add a stamp.

Yours sincerely



SIR FRANK ATHERTON