

# Asymptomatic Covid testing model in Merton

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# Principles and overview

## Purpose

- **Test-to-find** – identify asymptomatic positive cases and ensure self-isolation to prevent onwards transmission (30-40% of Covid asymptomatic)
- **Test-to-enable** – confirm negative individuals in order to come out of self-isolation or enable activities that are otherwise restricted; requires daily testing for 7d (serial testing); approval outstanding (apart from secondary schools)

## Tests

- **Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** - highly accurate but requires laboratory, 24-72 hour result turn-around, currently used nationally for asymptomatic testing in certain settings e.g. care homes
- **Lateral flow test (LFT)** - lower accuracy point-of-care test, results in 20-30 minutes; used for most asymptomatic testing; home testing approved in principle by MHRA; not yet for current model

# Merton model for asymptomatic testing

## Focus

- Mainly targeted at front-line staff (regular testing 1-2x wk)
- Opportunity for resident testing (one-off)

## Service offer from LBM

- 1 Support for national testing service** – ie secondary schools, care homes
- 2 Local community pharmacists**
- 3 Devolved LFT staff testing** to LBM teams and partner organisations
- 4 Morden Assembly Hall – site-based LFT use;** dual purpose for targeted staff testing & resident testing

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