

Media Release

Date: 24 November 2021

More than 37,000 LFT packs collected by islanders in last month

More than 37,000 lateral flow testing packs – about 925,000 individual tests – have been distributed to the public since they were made widely available on 18th October.

Packs continue to be available for collection from the Guernsey Information Centre between 9am-3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10am-2pm on Saturdays should islanders be running low, but we would again ask that people do not stockpile LFT packs.

There are approximately 27,000 households in Guernsey so the take up from the community has been excellent.

The Public Health guidance remains that islanders should aim to take a lateral flow test twice a week, taken in the mornings if possible. Through discussions with people collecting packs, there appears to some islanders who are testing themselves far more regularly – some as much as twice a day. While the response team have been delighted by the community's response to taking LFTs as part of wider measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19, this is unnecessary and not a good use of LFTs so we would ask islanders to test twice a week.

We would also remind islanders that they should not rely solely on LFTs if they are unwell. Anyone experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms must still stay at home and report those symptoms to the Clinical Helpline 220001 or 220002. The Clinical Helpline will advise on further testing. LFTs are not to be used as a substitute for PCR testing when symptomatic.

Anyone not able to collect a pack in person can ask a friend or family member to collect one for them. If this is also not possible, they can contact lateralflowqueries@gov.gg or call the non-clinical helpline on 01481 717118 to arrange a delivery. Delivery is approximately 3-5 business days, so please bear with us.

Islanders are also asked to please ensure they are disposing of LFTs correctly:

For a negative test: the used, single-use components of the test kit need to be thrown into black bin bag waste. They cannot be recycled. Please recycle any other cardboard and paper packaging in your clear bag e.g. letters, outer boxes.

For a positive test: the used, single-use components of the test kit need to be put into a plastic bag and taken to the location of your test - hospital tent or East Arm tent - for the confirmatory PCR test, where the staff will be able to throw this away into clinical waste in the screening tent.

For an invalid test: please hold onto the used, single-use components of the test kit until you have a test come back either positive or negative when you re-do the test.

For further information about LFTs, please visit our dedicated webpage at [Lateral Flow Testing \(LFT\) | States of Guernsey - COVID-19 \(gov.gg\)](#)