Dear Colleagues,

**Healthcare Workers to revert back to twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing.**

This letter follows on from DL (2021) 51, and asks healthcare workers (HCW) and patient facing primary care staff (general practice, pharmacy, optometry, dentistry) to reduce their frequency of LFD testing from daily back to twice weekly.

The return to pre-Omicron levels of LFD testing is based upon a reduction in COVID-19 prevalence in the community as well as a reduction in the number nosocomial clusters. The COVID-19 Nosocomial Review Group have considered and are supportive of HCWs moving from daily to twice weekly LFD testing.

All staff are reminded to record LFD results (positive, negative and void) on the portal Welcome - COVID Testing Portal (service-now.com).

For more information on the above, please refer to our frequency asked questions or standard operating procedures, both of which can be found at the following link, [Coronavirus (COVID-19): asymptomatic staff testing in NHS Scotland - gov.scot](www.gov.scot).

Guidance on carrying out LFD tests can be found on TURAS.

**Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing for social care staff**

Social care staff are asked to continue with their current testing regime of testing prior to each shift.

Social care colleagues and Public Health Scotland are considering what, if any, changes there will be with regards to asymptomatic testing for social care staff and will publish their own directors letter once this review has been completed.

**Update on self-isolation for health and social care staff**

In January updates were made to the Policy Framework regarding self-isolation guidance for Health and Social Care Staff, as a result of changes to the COVID-19 self-isolation guidance for the general population.

From the

Chief Nursing Officer

22 February 2022

DL (2022) 05

**For action**

NHS Scotland Chairs,
NHS Scotland Chief Executives,
Chief Officers Health and Social Care Partnerships
Local Authorities
HR Directors,
Medical Directors,
Nurse Directors,
Primary Care Leads,
Directors of Pharmacy,
Directors of Public Health,
Directors of Dentistry,
Optometric Advisors,
All Independent Contractors (Dental, Pharmacy, General Practice and Optometry),
Infection Control Managers
Infection Control Doctors
Infection Control Nurses
Estate Management

**Enquiries**

Scottish Government
Directorate for Chief Nursing Officer
E-mail: cno@gov.scot
More information defining the most recent self-isolation updates can be found in Annex A of DL (2022) 01.

**Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)**

We ask that staff continue to implement IPC measures as a key safeguard against COVID-19 and other transmissible infections and continue to follow the guidance contained in the Scottish Winter (21/22), Respiratory Infections in Health and Care Settings Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Addendum.

Lastly, and importantly, we would like to offer our thanks for your continued resilience and ongoing commitment to supporting your patients and colleagues during the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Alex McMahon
Chief Nursing Officer