

## **Lateral flow testing at point of entry**

We recognise the increased pressure across social care and that the majority of care providers are doing everything they can to keep people safe.

We've become aware that in some areas our inspectors are being asked to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) and on occasion being refused entry if they don't comply. Our inspectors have been advised not to take these tests as they're already part of a regular testing regime.

All of our inspectors are recognised as 'visiting professionals' under Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) guidance which explains:

*A visiting professional is defined as anyone visiting the care home in a professional capacity, for example a chiropodist. Some visiting professionals, including NHS staff and CQC inspectors will already be part of a regular testing regime, and therefore they will not need testing on the door of the care home.*

We can assure you that all inspectors visiting your locations are being tested weekly for COVID-19, which gives us a consistent approach to testing.

This is in addition to our existing protections for CQC staff engaging in inspection and registration visits;

- risk assessments are completed by each member of the inspection team before all site visits
- training on how to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is completed
- training on Infection Prevention and Control is completed