

# Professionals Visiting Care Homes

By the Covid-19 Support Team

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For national guidance see: [Testing for professionals visiting care homes](#)

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# What do professionals need to evidence

- ▶ All professionals must have evidence of a negative Covid-19 test within 72 hours of the visit to the Care Home. Should there be no evidence, concern of the validity of the result or the professional not take part in regular testing, then an LFD test will need to be taken on the premises before the professional enters the care home.
- ▶ Any professional visitors to the homes as of the 11 November 2021 will need to provide evidence of their vaccination status. This can either be confirmation of them having received the full course of the Covid-19 vaccination, or that they are exempt from receiving the vaccine.

# Council staff

Job Role	Are they regularly tested?	Will they be required to show evidence of vaccination status?
Social Workers	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Commissioners	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
DOLS Team	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Community Care Officers	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Safeguarding Team	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes, unless visiting due to a safeguarding concern.
Best Interest Assessors	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Advocates (Voiceability)	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Moving and Handling Advisors	Yes; PCR weekly	Yes
BACES	Yes; PCR weekly	Yes

# Health staff

Job Role	Are they regularly tested?	Will they be required to show evidence of vaccination status?
Doctors	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week	Yes
Dentists	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week	Yes
Opticians	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Community/District Nurses	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week From late September will move to LAMP testing once a week	Yes
Community Physios	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week	Yes
Occupational Therapists	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week	Yes

# Wider staff

Job Role	Are they regularly tested?	Will they be required to show evidence of vaccination status?
Delivery Drivers	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
External Maintenance Staff	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes, unless carrying out emergency work
Solicitors	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Clergy	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Police Officers	Yes; LFTs, twice weekly	Yes; unless responding to an emergency call
Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS)	Yes; LFTs, twice weekly	Yes; unless responding to an emergency call
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	Yes; LFTs, twice weekly	Yes; unless responding to an emergency call
Funeral Directors	Depends on each business	Yes
CQC Inspectors	Yes; PCR test, weekly	Yes

# Information on testing

Please be aware that any staff who do not receive regular Covid-19 testing and who, as part of their work, need to visit a care setting, OR have not had their regular testing within the last 72 hours, must undertake a lateral flow test prior to their visit.

To access a PCR/LFD test, please click here for the options:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/health/health-advice-and-support/coronavirus-testing-in-bradford-district/>

Lateral Flow Tests are available online and are available via click and collect from your local pharmacy; <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>, or ordered to a home address through; [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/).

Should the visitor test positive on the LFD, they can get a symptomatic PCR test at:

Centenary Square, Bradford

University of Bradford, Bradford

Victoria Hall, Keighley

# What tests are available

- ▶ **Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** tests are sent away to a lab to diagnose disease, these check for presence of the Covid-19 virus, which can be detected in the body before symptoms start and before antibodies form. In the lab a substance known as reverse transcriptase is used to increase the viral load within the sample so that it is easier to detect any presence of Covid-19 in the sample.
- ▶ **Lateral flow tests (LFTs)** can diagnose Covid-19 on the spot, but aren't as accurate as PCR tests, these also check for presence of the viral RNA, which can be detected in the body before symptoms start and before antibodies form. The sample is placed on an absorbent pad, as the sample flows through the pad it reaches a strip of antibodies, if there is Covid-19 proteins present, they attach to the antibodies and cause a reaction which confirms infection.
- ▶ **Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP)** tests are a single-tube technique for the amplification of DNA and a low-cost, rapid alternative to the PCR. Instead of using a series of temperature changes to produce copies of the viral DNA, like a PCR test, LAMP is conducted at a constant temperature. Like RT-PCR, LAMP detects whether or not viral RNA is present in samples from a patient.

# Mandatory vaccinations

Professional visitors will follow the same timeline as care home workers...



# Crossing the threshold of a care home

Full vaccination required - status needs to be checked and confirmed before entry (not an exhaustive list)

Full Vaccination Not Required

## Direct Employment

## Home Management and Regulation

## Supporting Health and Wellbeing

All permanent staff in the care home (any role)  
Agency staff (any role)  
Permanent staff from other settings  
Volunteers

Deep Cleaning Operatives  
Window Cleaners  
Catering Suppliers  
Food Hygiene Checks  
Legionella Checks  
Carpet Cleaners  
Equipment Inspectors  
Fire Safety Inspectors  
Maintenance and Repairs  
CQC Inspectors  
NHS Infection Control  
Local Authority Inspection Team

Dietician  
Social Worker  
General Practitioner  
Community Nurse  
Chiropodist  
Physiotherapist  
Occupational Therapist  
Optometrist  
Dentist  
Falls Service  
Speech and Language Therapist  
PHE Testing Teams  
Ambulance Services  
Funeral Directors  
Mental Health Teams  
Vaccination Teams  
Art Therapist  
Music Therapist  
Hairdresser/Beauticians  
Entertainer

Residents  
Essential Carer  
Medically Exempt (will need to be evidenced)  
Under 18s  
Friends and Family visiting a Resident  
Emergency Assistance  
Urgent Maintenance Workers

# Evidence of vaccination status

The NHS App on Smartphones will be one way to evidence your Covid-19 Vaccination status, some useful links have been included below to download and use this app:

- ▶ NHS App: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/>
- ▶ Getting started with the NHS App: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/nhs-app-help-and-support/getting-started-with-the-nhs-app/> (useful video on how to set up NHS login, this needs to be actioned before using the NHS App)
- ▶ NHS COVID Pass: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/> or <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-covid-pass>
- ▶ Get your NHS COVID Pass letter: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/get-your-covid-pass-letter/>

# What will demonstrate vaccination evidence

## Covid Pass App



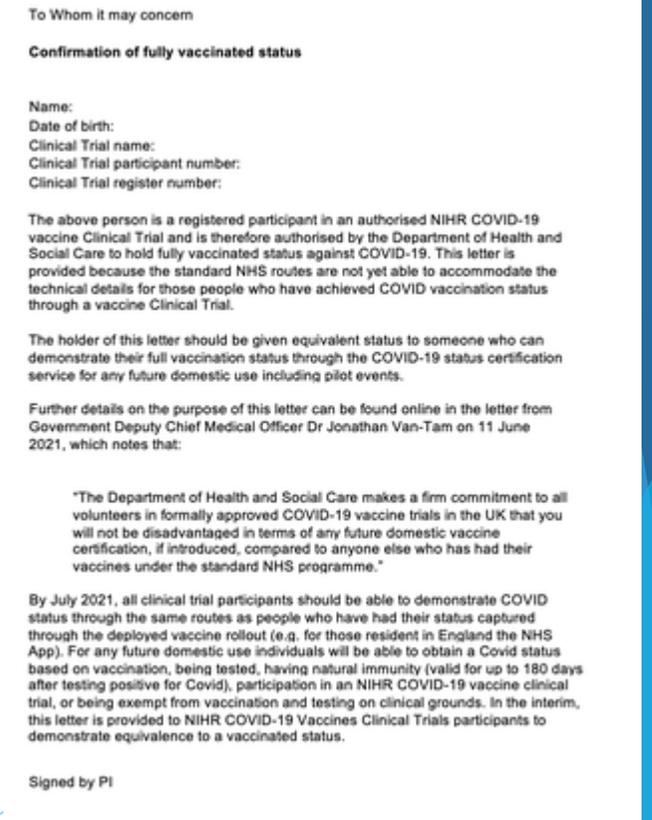
## Covid Pass PDF



## Covid Pass Letter



## Clinical Trial Letter



# Escalation and emergencies

## ▶ What counts as an emergency?

It is the Registered Manager's responsibility to use their professional judgement to determine whether a situation is an emergency in line with the guidance [HERE](#). Please note that you will need to record all decisions in relation to emergency situations, where people did not present their vaccination status.

Should the emergency staff be able to present their vaccination status, the incident will not have to be recorded. You will only need to log when evidence is not demonstrated.

## ▶ Who should you ask regarding categorising an emergency?

All responsibility to determine an emergency situation lies with the Registered Manager or the Senior on shift, their decision will be final.

## ▶ What to do when someone who needs to evidence their vaccination status, but is unable to, tries to enter the home?

Refuse entry and request their details for follow up with their manager/team.

## ▶ Telemeds or alternatives to someone carrying out an in person visit?

Remember to consider all options when needing support and whether or not a virtual visit or remote contact could assist with the situation at hand.

