

Eligibility criteria for Covid 19 Antivirals & Free Pharmacy LFD swab kits & which Pharmacies to get those LFD's from

In coalition with our colleagues across the wider West Yorkshire Health protection service, including colleagues from the West Yorkshire ICB & other IPC teams across West Yorkshire, we have put together a quick guide to accessing free Covid 19 swab kits for care home residents from pharmacies across our district, and the criteria residents must meet to be entitled to those free kits & Antiviral medication.

Background

From 1st April 2024 the UK changed it's routine & outbreak management swabbing for Covid 19 and subsequently access to free Covid 19 swab kits ended. This changed to only those who fit an eligibility criterion having access to free swabs through some local Pharmacies. The residents and staff who don't meet the eligible criteria no longer have to LFD swab. A discussion with the local Health Protection Team (HPT) should be undertaken if any homes feel a swab is required. A link to the updated guidance is below:

[Infection prevention and control \(IPC\) in adult social care: acute respiratory infection \(ARI\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-in-adult-social-care:acute-respiratory-infection-ari)

Who is Eligible for free LFD's & Covid 19 Antiviral Medication

A care home resident, or staff member, who is eligible for free LFD swab kits & access to Antiviral medication will meet the following:

- People aged 85 years and over
- People with end stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device
- People on the organ transplant list
- People aged 70 years or older, or who have a BMI of 35kg/m₂ or more, diabetes or heart failure, and:
 - are resident in a care home, or
 - are already hospitalised

Source: [1 Recommendations | Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19 | Guidance | NICE](#)

People who are potentially eligible for Covid 19 Antiviral medication & swab kits were previously digitally identified by their NHS records where possible. These individuals should have received a letter from the NHS explaining how to access Covid 19 treatments. If this hasn't happened, and you believe a resident does fit the criteria please contact the resident's GP who will assess for and sign off eligibility.

What you need to supply when getting Free Swab Kits

When obtaining swab kits from the pharmacy the collecting person must supply the following information:

- Residents NHS number (if available)
- Residents full name
- Residents Date of Birth
- Residents full address
- Resident representatives full name
- Resident representatives address
- Evidence of medical conditions proving eligibility (letters or emails from GP)

Providers should ensure that there are x3 tests available for x3 consecutive days of swabbing, if the resident should develop symptoms of Covid 19.

Pharmacies where you can access free LFD Kits

Below is a link to a list of local pharmacies who will provide free LFD swab kits to only those care home residents who are deemed eligible and fit the criteria:

[Find a pharmacy that offers free COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

For any further assistance or help you may require please contact a member of the team on the details below:

Michael Horsley: IPC Nurse Manager; Telephone: 07582 102117 or email: Michael.horsley@bradford.gov.uk

Darren Fletcher: Senior Infection Prevention Practitioner; Telephone: 07582 102163 or email: Darren.fletcher@bradford.gov.uk

Jasbinder Sandhu: Infection Prevention Practitioner; Telephone: 07970 833276 or email Jasbinder.Sandhu@bradford.gov.uk