

Owner: National Resilience

Number: 74-2021

Date: 20th December 2021

Provision of LFT kits from Dept of Health and Social Care

Distribution List:	Action	Info		Action	Info
Chief Fire Officers		✓	Fire & Rescue Service Control Rooms		✓
Home Office Policy		✓	National Resilience Fire Control (NRFC)		✓
Chair National Fire Chiefs Council		✓	ELS Stations		✓
Chair National Resilience Board		✓	Urban Search & Rescue Stations		✓
NFCC Working Group Leads		✓	High Volume Pump Stations		✓
National Resilience Capability Advisors		✓	Mass Decontamination Stations		✓
National Resilience Capability Officers		✓	DIM Teams & Stations		✓
DEFRA		✓	National Flood Assets (Water Teams & TacAds)		✓
Babcock - Prime Contractor			MTA Specialist Response Stations		✓
FRS Fleet Managers & Engineers			Lead Authority - Training		✓
FRS Learning & Development Managers			Fire & Rescue Service NR SPOCs		✓
Lead Authority – LTCM Contract Management			Lead Authority – Asset Refresh Procurement		✓
			National Operational Learning		✓

Author:

AM Kevin Longshaw – NR Lead Officer

Summary:		Purpose:
In light of the Omicron variant, to provide information regarding status of accessing Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits via DHSC.	✓	Urgent
		Technical
	✓	General Information

Further Information:

Contact:		
AM Kevin Longshaw	Contact Number:	077 692 17072
	Email:	klongshaw@fireresilience.org.uk

Background:

In light of the current infection rates associated with the COVID-19 Omicron variant, discussions have been ongoing with the Dept of Health and Social Care (DHSC) regarding the potential to once again provide Lateral Flow Test (LFTs) to the sector.

DHSC have explored this internally and unfortunately, due to significant logistical challenges and associated costs, will be unable to provide bulk deliveries outside of existing systems due to the risks associated with diverting resources away from other critical users as well as the home delivery network (which is being prioritised as the main route of supply).

DHSC have confirmed that they are putting in place additional logistical capacity and new delivery channels throughout the coming week which should see the system for home test delivery functioning normally. They are also confident that the system can now handle the additional demand for tests moving forward.

As such, FRS should ensure their personnel can access their own supply of LFTs via the home delivery channels and extant arrangements in place locally as this is viewed as the best route of mitigation.

Home Office will continue to liaise with DHSC and provide updates of any changes. Any challenges regarding the impacts of the current variant should be captured via your Covid reporting returns on the Tymly platform.

Should any specific areas of concern become apparent, please raise these immediately with the NRAT duty officer who will inform the Home Office who will escalate such matters to DHSC to ascertain if anything can be done to alleviate the situation. The NRAT Duty Officer can be contacted via e-mail on:

NRATadvisors@fireresilience.org.uk

If you require a more immediate response, please contact NRFC and explain that you need to speak with the NRAT duty officer regarding LFTs. NRFC will pass your details to the relevant duty officer who will contact you as necessary.

NRAT will continue to monitor the Covid report provided to Home Office and will liaise with any FRS who indicate extreme impacts arising from the Omicron variant.