



The Government of Sark

MEDICAL & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Free Lateral Flow Test kits to be made available to all Islanders

Packs of 25 Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits will be made available to all Islanders from Monday (18th October). The use of these kits will help us slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, particularly over the winter months. During this time we are more likely to be indoors, in crowded places or attending parties, and potentially coming into contact with positive cases.

Islanders are being advised to consider using these kits:

1. To regularly test themselves to check if they have the virus - it is recommended they take two tests per week, every week.
2. If they are asked to do so by the Contract Tracing Team as they have been identified as a contact of a case;
3. Before visiting a vulnerable person, for example someone living in a Care and Residential Home;
4. Before attending an event or meeting in a crowded or poorly ventilated place;
5. If asked to do so by Public Health Services.

Anyone experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms must still stay at home and report those symptoms to the Sark Medical Centre on 832045. They will advise on further testing. Islanders should NOT use LFTs as an alternative to getting clinical advice.

If you have had a positive result from an LFT then you need to phone the surgery on 832045 during surgery hours and 999 out of surgery hours straight away to book in for a PCR test. You need to stay at home until you have the result of this test. If the LFT is for a child, please notify the child's school or childcare setting. Other people in your household do not need to stay home at this stage.

If your PCR test is negative you can return to your normal activities but, if you feel unwell, Public Health recommend that you stay at home.

If your PCR test confirms you are positive for COVID-19 you will need to continue to isolate and you will be contacted by Public Health Services.

Dr Nicola Brink, Director of Public Health said

"This provides us with a further useful tool for managing COVID-19 and will help us prevent the virus spreading, particularly to vulnerable people or in settings where it could spread very widely. This also allows us to provide any support that is needed to the person with diagnosed with COVID-19 as soon as possible, as well as ensuring that the Contact Tracers can start working promptly to break the chains of transmission of the virus. It is really important that anyone with a positive LFT telephones the Sark Medical Centre to arrange for a confirmatory PCR test."

Director of the COVID-19 Response, Richard Evans said

“Lateral flow tests are one of the tools we use for managing COVID-19, something

Islanders have done incredibly well in recent months, and so offering them to all Islanders so they have a supply at hand makes good sense. This is so important as we move forward to living responsibly with COVID-19.”

Anyone not able to collect a pack in person can ask a friend or family member to collect one for them. The Lateral Flow Test kits will also be available in Alderney, Sark and Herm at the following locations and times:

Alderney:

Harbour (next to the Harbour showers) - from Monday through to Sunday between 9:00 10:30 and 13:30-14:30.

Sark:

The Government of Sark, Committee Office - from Monday through to Friday from 11:00 to 15:00.

Herm:

Main Harbour Office - from Monday through to Sunday between 9:00-17:00.