

Penderels Trust: Coronavirus COVID-19

Information for Personal Assistants (PAs): PA Testing and Vaccine

This document is specifically around PA testing and vaccinations for Covid-19. For our general Frequently Asked Questions document on the Covid-19 pandemic which covers topics including self-isolation, statutory sick pay and what to do if you can't work, please click here: <https://www.penderelstrust.org.uk/pdf/PAFAQ.pdf>

What are the different types of Covid-19 tests?

There are two types of Covid-19 test:

- a) PCR test – this test is the most accurate but takes around 48 hours to get a result. This is the test people are having if they have symptoms of Covid-19.
- b) Lateral flow test (also known as 'rapid antigen test') – you get results from this test very quickly (usually within a few hours) but it is slightly less accurate than the PCR test. This may also be called 'community testing' and is for people who don't have symptoms ('asymptomatic'). Twice weekly tests are available for all adults.

Can I have weekly testing like care home staff?

Yes. All adults are encouraged to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests.

There is an information document in the Covid-19 area of our website called 'Testing Service for PAs' which tells you what to do. You can watch a video of how to do a test correctly at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

You should order a box of 7 LFT tests every 21 days for yourself to be delivered to your home (or chosen) address. Your employer can order them for you on your behalf but it is probably easier for you to order them directly. You should order your tests by going to <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

This will take you through the ordering process and allow you to create an account which makes re-ordering easier.

Test results are available in 30 minutes and you must register your result as soon as you have it and every time you take a test. Results should be registered at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If you get a positive LFT test result, you must take a PCR test immediately, isolate until you receive a result and let your employer know. You can book a PCR test from <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

When will I be invited to go for a Covid-19 Vaccination?

All adults and young people aged 16 and over are able to book a vaccination. You should book via this link: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

You should let your employer know you've booked your vaccination.

I want to know why having the vaccine is important. Do you have any information to help me make up my mind?

If you want to know more about why having the Covid-19 vaccine is important, this short video produced on behalf of Department of Health and Social Care explains it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6UHLcM1vo&feature=youtu.be>

This video is primarily aimed at staff working in a care home but the explanation is relevant to those working in the community too.

I don't want the vaccine. Can I be made to have it?

The short answer is no. The UK government cannot make anyone have a vaccination against their will. It is against their human rights.

Can I my employer end my employment if I refuse to have the vaccine?

It depends on a number of factors. We would advise that your employer to speak to their insurance provider to discuss it through with them.

The Independent Living Group (ILG) (part of Premier Care insurance) has produced a factsheet on this topic which can be accessed here: https://be-human.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ILG_Support_PA_vaccine_advice_note_Ver2.pdf

From 11th November 2021, everyone who works in a CQC-registered care home must be fully vaccinated. This does not currently apply to PAs or people working for a care agency. This may change in the future and we will keep you and your employer updated on this.

For all our Covid-19 information, please visit the home page of our website www.penderelstrust.org.uk