

## INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	15 JUNE 2021	12
<b>LATERAL FLOW TESTING UPDATE</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

This report provides Members with an update on the current Community Lateral Flow Testing program in Fylde.

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Richard Hurt, Health Protection Practitioner

### WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

The corporate response to the Covid-19 pandemic falls within the remit of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Kathy Winstanley tel: 01253 658634 email: <mailto:Kathy.winstanley@fylde.gov.uk>  
[Kathy.winstanley@fylde.gov.uk](mailto:Kathy.winstanley@fylde.gov.uk)

### Update – Lateral Flow Testing Scheme

Lateral Flow Testing provides an efficient means of identifying asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 within 30 minutes to slow down community transmission, lower infection rates and facilitate the easing of restrictions. At the March committee, Members of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee were provided with details of the operational processes introduced to support community testing facilities to meet changing demand as lockdown eases.

Since community testing commenced at the start of February, over 2800 face to face LFTs have been carried out at Council testing sites and 200 boxes of home test kits have been distributed to members of the public.

Demand for testing has shown a downward trend in recent weeks with a gradual reduction in the number of people attending testing sites in person. This may be due to the availability of test kits online and at other community locations (chemists, libraries etc.), along with businesses and schools distributing kits to staff and pupils.

Various locations have been used as testing sites to address the needs of the community and to reduce the spend on vehicle hire; we are also making use of the mobile testing vehicle in more remote locations. Extended testing is now being offered on Wednesdays to capture people on the way home from work.

Testing is currently taking place as follows\*:

Monday:	AFC Fylde Education Centre, Kirkham – 09:30 to 15:30
Tuesday:	B & Q Car Park, Whitehills - 09:30 to 15:30 (mobile testing van)
Wednesday:	ICG Car Park, Warton - 10:30 to 14:00 (MTV)
Wednesday:	Pleasant Street Car Park, Lytham – 14:30 to 17:30 (MTV)
Thursday:	Public Offices Car Park, St Annes - 09:30 to 15:30 (MTV)
Friday:	Kirkham Community Centre, Kirkham - 09:30 to 15:30

The revised testing schedules are regularly promoted via social media and in leaflets handed out to businesses and community groups by the Covid Marshalls.

Moving forward we will need to consider the cost benefit of maintaining the community testing scheme. The weekly overheads have reduced since switching to the mobile testing vehicle on certain days however, there are still venue hire costs on other days. These costs are becoming excessive as demand for tests decreases i.e. £120 per day for just 7 tests. Fylde is not alone in facing this issue as a similar pattern is emerging across Lancashire and alternative provision should be a consideration once the current rise in cases (largely due to the Indian variant) has been brought under control.

Surge (enhanced) testing may also become a requirement in the future (as is currently taking place in Bolton, Blackburn and Burnley) if variants of concern or variants under investigation become detected in a local outbreak. This is a very resource intensive exercise involving door to door drop off and collection of tests, which is likely to involve staff from across the council, diverted from their routine roles to provide 'boots on the ground' assistance. Plans are currently underway to finalise the required resources and processes should surge testing become a reality in Fylde.

\* Please Note: Due to the Fylde Covid 19 testing vehicle being requested by LCC as part of a mutual aid deployment to Burnley, the local Covid 19 testing on a Thursday for the next two weeks will take place back at the United Reform Church St Anne's between 09:30 and 15:30 (dated 27/05/2021).