

# **Primary Care & Independent AHPs – LFT briefing, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## **1. Background**

Lateral flow testing was introduced for primary care health care workers and independent AHPs in May 2021. Individual organisations were invited to register with the Salesforce system, to place regular orders of LFTs for issuing to staff to support regular asymptomatic testing at home.

## **2. Change to current system**

The product currently used in Primary Care & AHP testing is the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) COVID-19 Self-Test (Rapid Antigen Test), in boxes of 7.

From 20<sup>th</sup> January, the product available for ordering will move to the Surescreen SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Test Cassette. These tests will be in boxes of 25.

Organisations with stock of the packs of Innova 7 tests can continue to use these up. Further orders placed following the change will be for the packs of Surescreen 25 tests.

The main differences between these tests are:

- The number of swabs, extraction tubes, extraction buffer vials, test cartridges.
- The method of swabbing. (nose-only swabs)
- The method of processing the swab sample. (The swab head does not need to be removed from the sample collection tube; it remains in situ)
- The timeframe for a result. (Surescreen 25s deliver a quicker result)
- Instructional leaflet: for the Surescreen 25s, the manufacturer's instructions included in the box should not be used. Instead, there are separate instructions which should be sent to all staff members, and read before first use. (Link to instructional leaflet below in section 5)

## **3. Timeframe for changes**

It has been agreed with DHSC that the date for changing from Innova 7's to Surescreen 25s will be on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This means that any organisation placing an order on the Salesforce platform from that date, the product delivered will be boxes of Surescreen 25s.

## **4. Requirements to implement this change**

- Integrated Care to ensure that communication of this change is issued to all primary care organisations & AHPs.
- Organisations are then to be asked to ensure the following:
  - Staff are issued with electronic links to the instructional leaflet and are asked to read this before taking their first test from the Surescreen 25s. (link below)

## **5. Resources to support change**

### **a. Instructional leaflet and other information:**

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/guidance-hsc-staff-healthcare-workers-and-care-providers/lateral-flow-0>