



## Lateral flow testing for pregnant women and their support person

The government announced on 9 April 2021 that twice weekly rapid (lateral flow) testing was available to everybody and that tests can be ordered online.

Women and pregnant people plus support people should order tests via this route and carry out tests at home on the day of their appointment, reporting their results online immediately. This will generate an email and a text message confirmation of the result.

Lateral flow tests (rapid testing kits) can be ordered online at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and some local pharmacies – see [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for a list.

### What we need you to do

- Order lateral flow tests on line via the government website
- Before every appointment to see your midwife or consultant and at every scan you must perform a lateral flow test within the 24 hours before your appointment - the test takes 20 minutes and your results will need to be entered on line
- This applies to both community and hospital appointments
- We will be asking you for proof of a negative test before your appointment and this will be recorded
- Women and/or their support people who have access to lateral flow tests via a different route, e.g. their employer or a school bubble, should bring proof of their latest regular test.

### What you need to do if your test is positive

- Please do not attend your appointment and contact labour ward
- Self-isolate for 10 days – you or anyone you live with need to isolate
- You will need to get a PCR test to confirm a positive result – labour ward will help you book a PCR test

Support persons who you wish to attend your appointment with you must also follow the above guidance.

From Monday 7 June we will be asking for confirmation of negative tests. We appreciate it may take some time for women to receive and use the tests.

If your baby is admitted to our Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) you and your support person will still be expected to continue to use the lateral flow tests and to show the results to the SCBU staff where the result will be recorded in your babies notes.

**If you or your support partner has any symptoms of COVID-19 such as a high temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste and smell please do not attend for appointment.**