

Protocols for the Deployment
of Lateral Flow Tests for
Incoming Travellers Exempt from Quarantine and
Tourism and Hospitality Workers:

18 NOVEMBER 2021



MINISTRY OF
TOURISM & TRANSPORT
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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This strategy document forms part of the NATIONAL POLICY ON THE USE OF ANTIGEN-DETECTING RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (“LATERAL FLOW TESTS”) and has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and approved by the Medical Officer of Health. The information contained within the document will be reviewed regularly and republished when new information becomes available and/or procedures changes.

Introduction and Rationale

1. Beginning 20th November, 2021, the Cayman Islands transitions to Phase 4 of its border reopening plan. In Phase 4, the Control of COVID-19 NO# 3, 2021 Regulations stipulate that any traveller arriving to the Island who is not required to quarantine is, by law, to undergo Antigen-Detecting Rapid Diagnostic Tests (“Lateral Flow Tests”) on days 2, 5 and 10 after arrival. This requirement applies to fully vaccinated tourist visitors. In addition to incoming travellers, screening testing, using lateral flow tests, is strongly recommended for all hospitality workers.
2. Because many people with COVID-19 infections are asymptomatic, their infections may be difficult to detect without regular testing. These new testing requirements are being introduced as a critical part of a layered approach to promoting a safe tourist in-destination experience and to reduce the risk of a forced lockdown or subsequent border closure due to unacceptably high levels of COVID-19 cases.
3. The new mandatory lateral flow testing requirements for visitors will allow us to effectively screen our tourist visitors with no symptoms or mild symptoms and promptly identify any positive cases so that effective measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. The approved use of a 10-day series of daily flow tests for close contacts of visitors who test positive can also help to safeguard the vacation experience of other members of a visitor group who test negative following exposure.
4. Screening testing of hospitality workers can also serve to promote safer working environments for hospitality workers and provide an additional measure of assurance to our tourist visitors. As with the intended use of lateral flow tests in other workplaces, the approved use of a 10-series of daily lateral flow tests for close contacts can also help tourism businesses to remain operational, by allowing hospitality workers who test negative to return to work.
5. The key benefits anticipated from these screening test programmes are:
 - a reopening to fully vaccinated tourist visitors that is safely maintained without a forced lockdown or subsequent border closure; and
 - reassurance to the local community that tourism operations are taking seriously their responsibilities for the sector to support a safe tourist in-destination experience and safe working environments for hospitality workers.

Purpose

6. The purpose of this protocol is to provide guidance for the effective deployment of lateral flow tests within the Cayman Islands tourism Sector, in order to:
 - Promote and support compliance with legal requirements under the Control of COVID-19 (Testing) Regulations, NO# 3, 2021 Regulations under the Public Health Act (2021 Revision) for mandatory COVID-19 testing of incoming travellers on Day 2, 5 and 10 following arrival; and
 - Promote and support the implementation of lateral flow tests as part of a screening testing programme for hospitality workers, in alignment with the recommended use of these tests within workplaces as provided for by the National Policy on the Use of Antigen-Detecting Rapid Diagnostic Tests (“Lateral Flow Tests”) in the Cayman Islands.
7. In addition, additional guidance on the “Protocols to be Followed in the event that a Tourist Visitor Tests Positive for COVID-19” is provided as an appendix to this protocol document.

Key Definitions

8. In accordance with the Tourism Law (1995 Revision), **tourist** means a visitor to the Islands for the purposes of section 44(1) of the Immigration Law 1990 and **tourism accommodation** means overnight or day to day accommodation available to tourists, which is provided in the course of a business and is under the management of an operator and includes a guest house, a cottage colony, a group of apartments and a hotel.
9. Other tourism-related definitions:
 - **Hospitality staff/worker/co-worker**: staff working in a business that serve visitors as its primary audience.
 - **Ancillary business**: local business who serve the hospitality industry.
 - **Tourism business**: any business that serves tourism in any capacity in its business location and/or services.
 - **In-destination experiences**: activities leisure or business that a tourist participates in while in the jurisdiction.
 - **Leisure activities**: touristic leisure activities such as water sports, spa, golf, beach activities and attending attractions or events.
10. Wherever reference is made to the term “Registered Healthcare provider”, this means a healthcare provider registered in the Cayman Islands by the Health Practice Commission or a Medical Council.
11. Reference to a “self-administered” lateral flow test means a lateral flow test that is approved by the manufacturer for at-home, unsupervised testing, and does not require the test to be administered by a healthcare provider. For the avoidance of doubt, self-administration of lateral flow tests are not acceptable in complying with the testing requirements for incoming travellers, including tourist visitors. However, self-administered lateral flow tests may be used as part of a screening testing programme implemented by tourism businesses for hospitality workers.

Policies

PART A: LATERAL FLOW TESTING FOR ALL INCOMING TRAVELLERS EXEMPT FROM QUARANTINE

Nature and Frequency of Testing

12. Beginning 20 November, 2021, all incoming travellers; tourist visitors and returning residents, who are exempt from quarantine are required to undertake lateral flow tests on Days 2, 5 and 10 following their arrival on island, whereby the arrival day is considered day zero.
13. Self-administered lateral flow tests are **not** acceptable for the purpose of complying with the required testing for incoming travellers. For the purpose of complying with legal requirements the lateral flow testing of travellers must be certified by a Registered Health Care Provider in the Cayman Islands.
14. Where a lateral flow test or PCR test is provided by a registered healthcare provider in the Cayman Islands, a negative test result may qualify as a departure test for onward traveller, if taken within the required timeframes for their intended travel destination. However, it should be noted that all tests for travel must meet the testing requirements for the intended travel destination, and it is the responsibility of the onward traveller to ensure that a lateral flow test will meet their requirements. In addition, for departure purposes, the onward traveller may need to show proof of the test results via a printed certificate, email or text message.

Responsibilities of the Traveller

15. The costs of any COVID-19 testing undertaken to comply with Regulations regarding travel remains the responsibility of the traveller.
16. Upon arrival, each incoming traveller will be issued with a Rapid Antigen Testing Card by Customs Border Control (CBC). Upon each Lateral Flow Test administered this card is required to be certified. Hotels and other hospitality providers may require guests, for example, to present this card demonstrating that they are in compliance with testing requirements before allowing entry to high traffic areas such as restaurants and pools.

Role and Responsibilities of Tourist Accommodation Providers

17. It is within the best interest of each tourist accommodation provider to support tourist visitors' compliance with the testing requirements, as part of a quality service for a positive visitor experience. It is recommended that at a minimum, tourism accommodation providers:
 - Promote awareness of the requirements for testing amongst their tourist visitors,
 - Provide timely reminders to their tourist visitors of their test days,
 - Support easy access to testing for their tourist visitors.
18. Tourism accommodation providers may support easy access to testing by adopting one or more of the following recommended practices:
 - Providing their tourist visitors with details of Registered Healthcare Providers who provide lateral flow testing in Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands;
 - Negotiating pre-set testing packages for their tourist visitors with Registered Healthcare Providers;
 - Scheduling tests for their tourist visitors with registered healthcare providers;
 - Making arrangements for on-site testing for their tourist visitors using licensed healthcare providers.

When further COVID-19 Testing may be Required Outside of the Day 2, 5 and 10 day testing regime

19. The day 10 test is the final test required for a traveller that has tested negative for all three tests, however, further testing may be required by Public Health should the traveller:
 - develop COVID-19 symptoms, or
 - become a primary contact to a COVID-19 positive case.
20. Where a traveller develops COVID-19 symptoms:
 - Tourist visitors should immediately self-isolate, along with any close contacts that form part of their travel group at their tourism accommodation, or private residence if they are staying with local contacts. Where they are staying at a tourism accommodation, they should immediately notify their accommodation provider until arrangements can be made for confirmatory testing by a Registered Healthcare Provider.
 - Returning residents should immediately self-isolate along with any close contacts that form a part of their household until arrangements can be made for confirmatory testing by a Registered Healthcare Provider.
21. In accordance with general Public Health guidance, any person with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 disease should contact their local healthcare provider or the Flu Hotline to seek advice on the best next steps. The Flu Hotline can be reached on 1-800-534-8600 or 925-6327 (Flow) or 947-3077 (Digicel), or email flu@hsa.ky.
22. Where a traveller tests positive for SARS-CoV-2, the positive result must be reported to Public Health by the registered Healthcare provider. In addition, the following actions are required:
 - **The traveller** must self-isolate within their accommodation, and

- **The tourist visitor and tourism accommodation** provider must follow the protocols established and approved by Public Health for dealing with a SARS-CoV-2 positive tourist visitor (**Please see Appendix I**).

23. Where any traveller becomes a primary contact of a SARS-CoV-2 positive case, the traveller may avoid mandatory isolation and continue to participate in all daily and in-destination activities if he/she:

- Tests negative on a lateral flow test administered by a registered healthcare provider within 24 hours of close contact with a SARS-CoV-2 positive person,
- Commences a series of 10 daily lateral flow tests that are administered by a registered healthcare provide,
- Continues to test negative each day while participating in the daily lateral flow testing programme.

24. While participating in the daily testing regime, the traveller is also required to continue to monitor symptoms and to strictly adhere to all recommended COVID-19 prevention strategies, such as mask-wearing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing. Should the traveller become symptomatic, even if the LFT result is negative, they should immediately isolate and contact the Public Health Department and their tourism accommodation provider.

Responsibility of Tourism Businesses, including Tourist Accommodation Providers, to provide a layered approach to COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

25. To promote safer tourist in-destination experiences, lateral flow testing for tourist visitors must be implemented as part of a layered approach by all tourism businesses, including tourism accommodation providers. Therefore, in conjunction with lateral flow testing, all tourism businesses are expected to implement other prevention strategies that include:

- operating within the entry requirements of Phases 4 & 5 of the Border Reopening Plan
- consistent and correct use of masks;
- physical distancing;
- improved ventilation;
- handwashing and respiratory etiquette;
- isolating in approved government quarantine tourism accommodation when sick and getting tested; and
- routine cleaning with disinfection and other controls, in compliance with the minimum standards established by CARPHA or other industry standards.

Reporting Lateral Flow Test Results of Incoming Travellers

26. Any registered healthcare provider who administers Antigen detecting Rapid Diagnostic Tests (Ag-RDT, otherwise known as lateral flow tests) is required to report on all tests administered to travellers and advise Public Health (PH) of all positive cases for SARS-CoV-2 which is a notifiable disease. Providers will give travellers an official certificate of test results.

Purpose of Reporting Test Results for Incoming Travellers

27. COVID-19 is considered a notifiable disease under the Public Health Act (2021 Revision). As such it is a legal requirement to report positive cases of SARS-CoV-2. The reporting of test results serves three main purposes:

- **Public Health** – Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 is a potential risk to the health of the Public in general and as such these cases would be managed by Public Health experts, subject to instructions from the Medical Officer of Health, and required to immediately isolate. All positive cases of SARS-CoV-2 should be immediately reported to Public Health so that necessary arrangements can be made for monitoring of and support of such positive individuals. This includes the scheduling of any necessary subsequent testing.
- **Compliance** – All testing should be reported to confirm that arriving travellers are in compliance with the requirements of Regulations to the Public Health Act.
- **Data, Analytics, and Planning** – the collection of both positive and negative test results is useful for the purpose of analytics and assessing COVID-19 trends. This will assist Public Health and the Government in forwarding planning for improved management of COVID-19.

How to Report on Antigen Detecting Rapid Diagnostic Testing

28. The following guidance should be followed by registered healthcare providers for reporting the results of lateral flow tests for travellers, including tourist visitors:

- **Reporting** – Providers are asked to submit a daily report of each Ag-RDT administered for that respective day. Positives cases for SARS-CoV-2 are to be immediately reported as soon as they are detected.
- **Notifying Tourism Accommodations** – Where a tourist visitor tests positive for COVID-19, the Registered Healthcare Provider should immediately report this to the tourism accommodation provider using the information provided by the visitor. Where other travellers are residing at the private residence of a local contact, then this should be reported to that local contact by Public Health or the traveller.

PART B: LATERAL FLOW TESTING FOR HOSPITALITY WORKERS

Nature and Frequency of Testing

29. In concert with the new mandatory lateral flow testing regime for incoming travellers beginning 20 November, 2021, Tourism Businesses are strongly recommended to set up COVID-19 testing programmes for all employees, irrespective of their vaccination status, for the purpose of:

- screening hospitality workers with no COVID-19 symptoms or mild symptoms, and

- promptly identifying any positive cases so that effective measures can be taken to prevent further transmission.

30. Tourism Businesses are also encouraged to participate in Public Health approved use of lateral flow tests to reduce the number of persons required to isolate as a result of a positive case. This will enable a good degree of business continuity alongside a reduction in people transmitting SARS-CoV-2 to the rest of the population enabling a safer health environment for all.

31. For the purpose of this protocol, hospitality workers should include:

- **Hospitality staff/worker/co-workers** in a business that serve visitors as its primary audience,
- **Workers in ancillary businesses** who serve the hospitality industry,
- **Workers in any Tourism business** that serves tourism in any capacity in its business location and/or services.
- **Workers that provide In-destination experiences, in relation to** activities, leisure or business that a tourist participates in while in the jurisdiction.
- **Workers involved in providing touristic Leisure activities**, such as water sports, spa, golf, beach activities and attending attractions or events.

32. In line with the National Policy on the Use of Antigen-Detecting Rapid Diagnostic Tests (“Lateral Flow Tests”) in the Cayman Islands:

- Lateral flow tests, including self-administered lateral flow tests, may be used to provide COVID-19 screening tests for hospitality workers with no COVID-19 symptoms or mild symptoms;
- Where lateral flow tests are used for this purpose, they should be administered at least twice weekly with a minimum of three days between tests;
- The results of any positive tests for a hospitality worker must be reported to Public Health in accordance with the Public Health Act (2021 Revision), which indicates that COVID-19 is a notifiable disease that **is required** to be reported to the Medical Officer of Health, as soon as he/she becomes aware of the positive test results.
- Where testing is introduced into the workplace by tourism businesses, the plans in respect of workplace testing should be set out in a formal workplace testing document. This document should help to provide tourism workers with sufficient information and assist in enabling testing to be carried out privately, fairly, and consistently. Employers should engage with employees prior to introducing employee testing.

Responsibilities of Tourism Businesses

33. Tourism Businesses may choose to introduce COVID-19 screening testing, using lateral flow tests, in different ways. For example, they may:

- Set up a programme using self-administered lateral flow tests;
- Set up a supervised on-site screening testing programme that is administered by a third-party Registered Healthcare Provider or by staff trained for this purpose;
- Direct staff to use the services of a Registered Healthcare Provider approved for use by the tourism business for the purpose of providing lateral flow tests for their employees.

34. Tourism Businesses may also choose to use lateral flow tests to reduce the number of employees required to isolate, should they become primary contacts of a person who tests positive for SARS-CoV-2. Where a hospitality worker becomes a primary contact to a COVID-19 positive case, the worker may avoid mandatory isolation and continue to report to work if he/she:

- Tests negative on a lateral flow test within 24 hours of close contact with a SARS-CoV-2 positive person;
- Commences a series of 10 daily lateral flow tests; and,
- Continues to test negative each day while participating in the daily lateral flow testing programme.

35. While participating in the daily lateral flow testing regime, the hospitality worker is also required to continue to monitor symptoms and to strictly adhere to all recommended COVID-19 prevention strategies, such as mask-wearing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing. Should the hospitality worker become symptomatic, even if the LFT result is negative, they should immediately isolate and contact the Public Health Department.

36. All costs related to the provision of COVID-19 screening testing for employees of a tourism businesses, including lateral flow test kits or the provision of an internal or external testing service or the costs of PCR tests, must be met by the tourism business.

Responsibilities of Hospitality Workers

37. In accordance with general Public Health guidance, any person with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 disease should contact their local healthcare provider or the Flu Hotline to seek advice on the best next steps. The Flu Hotline can be reached on 1-800-534-8600 or 925-6327 (Flow) or 947-3077 (Digicel), or email flu@hsa.ky.

38. Hospitality workers may choose to conduct additional tests at home that are in excess of the number of tests carried out by the tourism business and/or at different intervals, for their own purposes. Under these circumstances:

- The costs of these tests will be borne by the individual.

- Hospitality staff are **not** required to provide the results of these tests to PH, **unless there is a positive test result**;
- In this event that there is a positive test result, hospitality staff are required to follow the Public Health protocols for reporting a positive test result.

Procedures to be Followed when a Hospitality Worker Tests Positive

39. If a team member tests positive on a lateral flow test, the employee must not attend work, must isolate and must follow Public Health protocols for reporting the positive result. Public Health policy will determine when it is safe for the employee to return to work.
40. Where the members of the hospitality worker's household are fully vaccinated, each individual member of the household may conduct daily LFT testing for 10 days and follow the National Policy in this regard. If an individual receives a negative LFT result, that individual can attend school/work if daily results continue to be negative. If an individual receives a positive LFT result, that individual must:
- stay at home and
 - contact Public Health immediately.
41. If a vaccinated individual is unable to conduct daily lateral flow testing, the individual is required to isolate for 10 days.
42. Where the members of his/her household are NOT fully vaccinated, and they are 18 years of age or older, they are to isolate for 14 days. Public Health should be notified and a negative PCR test result will be required for release from isolation. Unvaccinated children residing in the household under 18 years old can continue to go to school if their daily LFT result is negative.

Procedures to be followed when a Hospitality Co-Worker Tests Positive

43. Once a hospitality staff member tests positive, a surveillance period is in effect for all team members who qualify as close contacts of the hospitality co-worker and this surveillance period will continue until no positive results are received for 10 consecutive days.
44. During a surveillance period, a tourism business may choose to implement a 10-day series of lateral flow tests for all close contacts in order to reduce the number of employees required to isolate, as prescribed in paragraph 37 above.
45. If another co-worker tests positive during the 10-day surveillance period, the surveillance period resets and continues until there are no positive cases for 10 consecutive days.
46. Follow-up testing, using a laboratory-based PCR test may be conducted by the Public Health Department, but a positive or equivocal lateral flow test should be treated as indicating someone is very likely to have COVID-19.
47. It should be noted that if a hospitality worker is contacted by Public Health and he/she is instructed to self-isolate, a negative lateral flow test cannot be used to override the Public Health instruction made in accordance with the Public Health Act (2021 Revision) and any relevant Regulations.

When Lateral Flow Tests may be administered by Public Health

48. Lateral flow tests may be used by Public Health for diagnostic purposes, as part of an outbreak investigation and response. Where lateral flow tests are used by PH for this purpose:
- The tests may be administered to affected hospitality workers regardless of vaccination status.
 - These lateral flow tests may form part of a Public Health strategy to:
 - Provide a more rapid response for identifying persons actively infected with COVID-19 virus, to help guide clinical and infection control decisions.
 - Reduce the number of persons required to isolate as a result of a positive case.

Reporting Results

49. The results of any positive tests must be reported to Public Health in accordance with the Public Health Act (2021 Revision), which indicates that COVID-19 is a notifiable disease that **is required** to be reported to the Medical Officer of Health, as soon as he/she becomes aware of the positive test results.
50. All positive reports from self-administered lateral flow tests should be reported by:
- completing an online reporting form on www.explore.gov./report-covid19-result, or
 - calling the Flu Hotline on 1-800-534-8600 or 925-6327 (Flow) or 947-3077 (Digicel), or
 - by emailing flu@hsa.ky
51. Any registered healthcare provider who is administering lateral flow tests is required to advise the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) of people positive for SARS-CoV-2 which is a notifiable disease.