

Covid – Omicron update on services

When working in other people's homes, it is still important to take actions and implement measures to limit the risk of transmission of the virus. This is important for limiting the risk to our tenants and our employees. Linthouse Housing Association has therefore asked our contractors and require all our staff to follow the steps listed below when attending your property for essential repairs and visits.

- before entering other people's home, workers should undertake a LFD test on the day, prior to attendance;
- householders should also undertake a LFD test on the day, prior to the visit. We are encouraging householders, particularly those on the High Risk List, to ask people who are working in their home to take an LFD test first;
- if anyone in the house is self-isolating, staff should not enter unless the work required is essential/an emergency;
- as with any workplace, risk assessments are important in identifying risks and how they can be controlled. Even if self-employed or an individual contractor, you should undertake a risk assessment for working in someone else's home that covers Covid;
- staff should wear a face covering, especially when moving through the home or engaging with any of the householders. They may want to ask members of the household to wear a face covering when engaging, though it should be remembered that not everyone is able to wear one;
- ventilation of the workspace/ home should be maximised to allow circulation of fresh air;
- workers should try to keep a reasonable distance from individuals in the household;
- when travelling to/from the work location, consider the relevant guidance.

In addition to the steps above we would also ask that all tenants take a lateral flow test before our contractors/staff attend your home and if you record a positive result contact the contractor to rearrange your appointment, if possible, or if it is an emergency repair discuss what steps have to be taken to protect both you and the contractor. Lateral Flow Tests can be ordered from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or picked up at your local pharmacy.

If you would like more information on the Scottish Governments Guidance on people working in others homes, this can be seen at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-general-guidance-for-safer-workplaces/pages/sector-specific-measures/>

The Regulations are also available at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2021/475/made>