

**Statement from Department of Health & Social Care  
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency approval of covid-19 lateral flow tests**

**Forwarded by Senior Media Relations Officer, Newsdesk  
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**A government spokesperson said:**

"The aim of our world-leading Events Research Programme is to examine the risk of COVID-19 transmission at large events and explore how crowds can be welcomed back in bigger numbers safely.

"The health regulator has approved the use of lateral flow tests for the Events Research Programme as is it a formal scientific study, and we will publish a review once the data has been analysed.

"We have been clear from the outset that nobody should interpret a negative test result or a vaccine dose as a green light to drop their guard - people must continue to maintain social distancing and follow the latest guidelines."

**On background:**

- The MHRA has authorised the self-test for exceptional use for asymptomatic people in a limited setting. Specifically, the MHRA has approved the use of LFTs for the Events Research Programme as is it a formal scientific study. Extensive clinical evaluation has shown that these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community, including for asymptomatic people.
- There is clear evidence that by using rapid testing we are identifying cases we would otherwise not find, allowing people to isolate, so they can prevent further spread of the disease and save lives.
- We will submit findings and publish a review to inform decisions on further reopening at Step 4 of the roadmap once all of the pilots have been completed and the data has been analysed.
- Public safety is our main priority and decisions are guided by an independently-chaired Science Board of relevant experts including senior PHE representation, who take into account the latest public health data.
- There have been very minimal positive cases recorded out of almost 60,000 attendees at 9 pilot events. This is in line with the broader population.
- Where cases have been identified, fast contract tracing and data sharing has been important for tracking and containing any spread in the community