

FDF Cymru: Covid Update 4th March 2022

Today, Welsh Government has published at the regular three week review the strategy document '**Together for a Safer Future: Wales's Long-Term Covid-19 Transition from Pandemic to Endemic**'

Wales will remain at Alert Level Zero for the next three weeks. The Welsh Government **hopes to remove the legal underpinning for remaining measures from 28 March**, if the public health situation continues. This includes the legal requirement to self-isolate, wear a face covering, and for businesses to undertake Covid-19 risk assessment and put in place reasonable measures.

Welsh Government plans to provide guidance, on self-isolation and the use of face coverings in certain settings, for example. **Note businesses will still be subject to general health and safety requirements.**

From 28 March, PCR tests will not be available for mass testing, with the emphasis on lateral flow testing instead.

The First Minister said a level of testing will still be available for surveillance of the virus, as will a targeted Track and Trace system. **The spring booster programme will be offered to the elderly and vulnerable adults, and the vaccine will be offered to five- to 11-year-olds.**

What is the plan for mass testing in Wales?

From 28 March:

- The use of PCR tests - processed in a lab - by the general public will stop.
- LFTs will be available online for free - but only for testing people who have symptoms.
- While self-isolation will no longer be law, people will still be advised to get a test if they have symptoms and isolate if positive.
- Contact tracing will continue.

From the end of June:

- LFTs cease to be available for testing people with symptoms.
- Contact tracing and self-isolation support payments end.
- Self-isolation guidance will be changed to take additional precautions when ill, such as staying at home if possible.

PCR tests will be kept for certain groups, such as health and social care staff with symptoms and care home residents, and hospital patients **meaning LFTs will be available for free for a few months longer than they will be in England.**