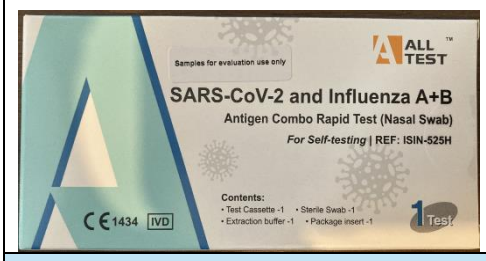
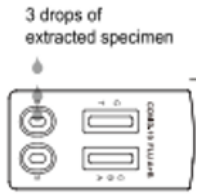
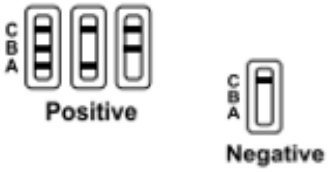
UK Health Security Agency

How to use and report combo rapid flu and COVID-19 LFD tests for flu-like outbreaks among care home residents

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
You have received 10 combo rapid LFD kits in the post. Store these with the instructions on how to use them. 	**If 2 or more residents** develop flu-like illness within 5 days of each other (possible outbreak), use combo rapid LFDs (one on each ill resident up to a total of 5 tests) according to pack instructions. 	Once you have taken the nasal swab, mixed it with the fluid and added drops on the LFD (3 drops per circle above each window), wait for 10 mins for lines to appear (as per pack instructions). 
Step 4	**Step 5**	**Step 6**
Check the test has worked. Ensure each window has a control line showing (line next to C). If not, (like below) the test did not work. If it did not work repeat with a new LFD. 	Check if it is flu. If it is flu, **the CBA window will show *at least two lines***. One C line and one A or B line or all three lines (even if a weak line). No A or B line means no flu. 	Check if its COVID-19. If it is COVID there will **be *at least two lines* in the CT window**. No T line means no COVID. 
Step 7	**Step 8**	**Step 9**
As per usual practice, we only recommend testing the first few unwell residents when an outbreak is suspected – so five of the ten tests will be enough to confirm whether flu or COVID-19 is causing the outbreak. If you have tested 4 or fewer unwell residents, and **the test results are negative**, repeat the tests on these residents the next day and test any residents with new symptoms up to a maximum of 5 tests in total.	Report your outbreak and your test results via the Report an outbreak webpage. Report all your test results – both positive and negative. The local Health Protection Team will contact you if you have a 'flu outbreak' to advise on any actions needed to further protect residents and staff and to ensure the unwell residents receive the correct medicines. If only one person has flu and no other residents are unwell (no outbreak) – contact the GP.	If any residents are ill with **COVID-19 only**, seek clinical advice if the resident is eligible for treatment. Information on eligibility can be found here: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/treatments-for-covid-19/ If residents have flu-like illness and do not have flu or COVID, contact the GP.
Next steps		
Once you have reported your test results via the Report an outbreak webpage, you will receive a new set of tests in one to two weeks.		

For more information see SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A+B antigen combo rapid tests for COVID-19 and 2 types of flu A and B during an outbreak of acute respiratory infection in adult social care residential and nursing homes: a pilot in some areas of England - GOV.UK

If any residents are severely unwell, seek urgent medical care via GP, NHS 111 or 999