

UNITED KINGDOM MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

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To: ALL UKMPA MEMBERS

Circular 5/2021

21 January 2021

Dear Colleague,

Covid-19 – Community Testing

Community asymptomatic testing (1), also known as “test to find”, is a major new tool to help identify and isolate individuals who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms and may inadvertently be spreading the virus.

In light of the national lockdown and the Government guidance to stay at home, critical workers who are required to work outside their home, and come into contact with others, are encouraged to take a weekly rapid test.

These tests (also known as lateral flow tests), turn around results quickly (usually 30 minutes), without the need for a laboratory. The test can identify people who have coronavirus that are not showing symptoms, so that these people can self-isolate to help stop the spread.

The occupational groups recommended for weekly testing include Maritime Pilots, in their roles as essential transport workers.

We have been advised that the community testing programme is currently being expanded to all local authorities in England until at least the end of March, focusing initially on those critical workers who are unable to access workplace testing. Pilots already participating in workplace testing schemes are encouraged to use those in the first instance.

To access your local community testing programme, please check the list of participating areas and then search online via your local council. (2)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mike Morris'.

Mike Morris
Chairman

(1) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-testing-explainer/community-testing-a-guide-for-local-delivery#how-the-community-testing-programme-works>

(2) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-testing-explainer/community-testing-programme-areas>