



30th April 2020

Guidance on coronavirus testing

Including who is eligible for a test, how to get tested and the different types of test available is available on the following Government website page:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
-

Who can be tested?

The priority is testing patients to inform their clinical diagnosis.

Also eligible for testing:

- all essential workers including NHS and social care workers with symptoms (see the full list of [essential workers](#))
- anyone over 65 with symptoms
- anyone with symptoms whose work cannot be done from home (for example, construction workers, shop workers, emergency plumbers and delivery drivers)
- anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus and lives with any of those identified above

Additionally, eligible for testing are:

- social care workers and residents in care homes (**with or without symptoms**) both to investigate outbreaks and, following successful pilots, as part of a rolling programme to test all care homes
- NHS workers* and patients **without symptoms**, in line with NHS England guidance

This means anyone in one of these groups can find out whether they have the virus. Testing is most effective within 3 days of symptoms developing.

Please note that these lists apply to England only

*** NHS workers (Frontline workers) including community pharmacy staff in England**, can access free testing for COVID-19, via the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) national testing service. Testing will allow those currently unable to return to work because they or a member of their family or household have symptoms of coronavirus to know whether they do have the virus.

A new portal for booking COVID-19 tests for key workers, including community pharmacy team members, is now available for use by team members and employers:

- [Essential workers: apply for a coronavirus test \(GOV.UK\)](#)

Arrange a test

You can select a regional test site drive-through appointment or home test kit.

Home test kit availability will initially be limited but more will become available.

Go to the Government website for full details:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

or if eligible **(with or without symptoms)**

- [Essential workers: apply for a coronavirus test \(GOV.UK\)](#)