

How do NHS employees get a test for COVID-19?



If an NHS employee or a member of their household experiences COVID-19 symptoms, they should first tell their employer. Those eligible for a test will be directed to the most appropriate place for testing.

Tests may take place at either:

- a **local acute, mental health and community hospital trust** with NHS staff delivering the tests
- or **local community venues and outreach testing centres** with NHS staff delivering the tests.

Who is eligible?

NHS employees or members of their household are eligible for a test. Individuals should be tested in the **first three days** of the onset of COVID-19 symptoms - testing should not be undertaken after **day five** of symptoms.

What happens after the test?

If a member of staff tests negative, then they can return to work if they are well enough to do so and should discuss this with their employing organisation.

If an individual living in the same household as a member of the NHS family tests negative then the NHS worker can return to work without being tested, as long as they remain symptom free and the whole household can come out of self-isolation.

If a member of staff's test is positive they should follow government guidance and isolate for 7 days.

If a member of their household tests positive they should follow government guidance and self-isolate for 14 days.



Additional testing opportunities



In addition to our NHS testing facilities, the government has established several methods for essential workers to get a test, including all those working for the NHS.

These include:



- **Regional testing centres:** NHS staff can be tested at one of the many large regional testing centres. These are run across the country by the Department of Health and Social Care. Many different organisations are involved in running the individual sites. These are often based in car parks, such as IKEA, where a swab may be taken, or they may provide a self-swab kit so people can take a swab themselves;



- **Smaller drive-through sites:** they can be tested at one of the many smaller drive through sites where NHS staff or other teams will provide kits for self-swabbing;



- **Home swabbing:** in some areas of the country staff may be visited by staff to test them at home. Home testing is also being rolled out where a kit may be posted to a person's home so they can swab themselves or a member of their household;



- **Mobile swabbing units:** mobile swabbing units, run by the military, will be visiting specific areas to provide additional testing opportunities to communities.
- Local NHS organisations are rolling out testing of their asymptomatic staff.

Essential workers

The government has sent up an online portal self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk for individual booking.

Employers who wish to register to be given access to the employer referral portal should email portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk