Overview

‘Covid-19 – even if you don’t have symptoms of Covid-19 please have your free test now’

A major Covid-19 testing helps drive down transmission rates and protect the community.

Around one in three people who are infected with Covid-19 have no symptoms, so could be spreading the disease without knowing it. Broadening testing to identify those showing no symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly and breaking chains of transmission.

With its targeted approach, community testing aims to reduce the prevalence of the virus in the highest risk areas.
Those aged 16 and over are being asked to access a Covid-19 test even if they have no symptoms. Those aged 16 and 17 should be accompanied by an adult or have consent of a parent/guardian.

No appointment is necessary – just turn up at one of the sites. Even if you feel perfectly fine, please find the time to have a test. More information can be found at https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/FrontlineTesting

If you do have symptoms of Covid-19 - a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – you should book a test via the Government testing website at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

Anyone displaying symptoms should immediately self-isolate pending the outcome of that test. Please continue to do your bit to help.

Q&As

Question	Answer
What is Universal/Frontline testing and why have I been invited?	Everyone in England, including those without symptoms, will be able to take a free rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) test twice a week. Alongside vaccine rollout, regular testing is at the heart of plans to reopen society and the economy, helping to suppress and control the spread of variants. Updates will be made to the NHS COVID-19 app in England to coincide with the universal testing offer.
What should someone do if they have coronavirus symptoms?	**If you have any symptoms of coronavirus, please do not attend for rapid testing**. Free testing for anybody with symptoms continues to be available at a range of locations. You MUST book a test if you have symptoms of coronavirus – high temperature, continuous cough or loss of / change in taste or smell – at https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119
How does the process work?	This test is open to everyone over the age of 16yrs who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been instructed to self-isolate. This 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. You are asked to attend one of the sites for a test which takes no longer than 15 minutes and results will be received within an hour. If you test positive, you and members of your household will need to isolate immediately – and you should book a confirmatory PCR test at https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119. If you test negative, you must continue to follow the latest national guidance and remember: • Hands – wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water often, and as soon as you get home - use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available. • Face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet. • Space – stay at least 2 metres away from anyone you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble.

Who can be tested?	Everybody over the age of 16 yrs old.
What type of tests will be used for Community Testing and how do they work?	We are using rapid result tests known as lateral flow tests or LFT, these are processed at the community testing sites without any need for sending samples to a laboratory. The staff at the testing sites have received training to carry out the processing. Results are ready very quickly – from 30 minutes to an hour. You will receive your results by text – we aim to get your results to you within one hour. Lateral flow antigen tests are a new kind of technology that can be used to test a higher proportion of asymptomatic people, better enabling us to identify and isolate more people who are at high likelihood of spreading virus, and break the chains of transmission. A Lateral Flow Test (LFT) detects the presence or absence of coronavirus by applying a swab or saliva sample to the device's absorbent pad. The sample runs along the surface of the pad, showing at the end a visual positive or negative result dependent on the presence of the virus.
How will you incentivise people participate in Community Testing?	Alongside vaccine rollout, regular testing is at the heart of plans to reopen society and the economy, helping to suppress and control the spread of variants.
Will people be required to take a test?	Everyone over the age of 16 is asked to attend to take a test within the period at one of the two sites. Anyone aged 16 or 17 years old need to have parent/guardian consent.
Will people be paid to take tests?	No
What about people who cannot get to a test site?	You could: • Ask a member of your household, support bubble or support worker to assist you or collect you a home test kit box • Access public transport

	• Contact the Covid 19 helpline for advice and support on 01522 782189 - our teams will try to help you to find a suitable solution • Order home test kits - https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests If people call the helpline; Wellbeing Lincs will be able to receive these queries and look at options on a case by case basis. The solution could range from: • Connecting them with a volunteer • Seeing what other services are involved and how they can help • Liaising with the Borough Council to arrange deployment of a home test kit • Arranging transport
Will you be able to upload your results to the app?	You can upload your result to the app, if you've downloaded it you can see the option.
When I arrive how do I register if I don't have a smartphone?	The testing site will talk people through the process if they have a smart device or not. For those without a device, support is available on site.
Are lateral flow tests less accurate than PCR tests?	Lateral flow and PCR tests have different characteristics and different uses. PCR tests have higher specificity and sensitivity but require a laboratory to process results and are therefore slower and more expensive. They are therefore well suited to specific use cases, such as those with symptoms of Covid-19 While lateral flow tests have lower sensitivity than PCR, they deliver results far faster and do not require a lab, making them more scalable. As such, they allow us to test far larger numbers of asymptomatic people and get them their test result faster than with PCR technology. This will enable us to capture a large percentage of people who are infected and infectious, but asymptomatic and unaware of the fact that they are possibly spreading Covid.

Do these tests work for people without symptoms?	Lateral flow tests are validated technology, it is safe, inexpensive and the results are trusted.
	Extensive clinical evaluation from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) are accurate and sensitive to be deployed for mass testing, including for asymptomatic people.
	Since rapid testing was introduced, over 120,000 positive cases that would not have been found otherwise have already been identified by LFDs.
Can I attend even if I am not registered with a GP?	Yes
What will this test tell me?	If you get a positive result, it is likely that you were infectious at the time the test was taken.
	The antigen test cannot detect very low levels of coronavirus in a sample, so if you have only recently been infected, are in the incubation period, or if you have mostly recovered, the test may not give a positive result.
How long does it take to do the test?	It takes less than 5 minutes to administer the test.
	Please allow around 15 minutes in total for a visit to the centre as there is a registration form that needs completing prior to the test.
How long does it take to get the result?	The test produces a result within an hour (general around 30 minutes) but it can take up to 24 hours for the results to come through. If you do not receive your test results within 24 hours please re visit the testing site for a further test.
How are the tests processed?	Lateral flow devices do not require a laboratory to process the test. Swabbing and processing of these tests must currently be conducted at a dedicated testing site by trained personnel. The devices are designed to be intuitive and require minimal training to operate, and we are looking at how this test could be self-administered.
How much does each kit cost?	The UK Government has been purchasing kits. The cost per kit is not disclosed due to commercial confidentiality and sensitivities.
What should I do if I test positive?	If you test positive, you and members of your household will need to isolate immediately – and should book a confirmatory PCR test at https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

	We can provide assistance and support and eligible individuals who test positive will be entitled to the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment in the same way as a regular swab test through NHS Test and Trace. Please note the government has laid down eligibility criteria.
Do I have to take this test?	No, but regular testing is at the heart of plans to reopen society and the economy, helping to suppress and control the spread of variants.
Why should people take part?	We aim to identify people who do not have Covid-19 symptoms but who are infectious and could spread the infection to others unknowingly. Identifying and supporting infectious people to isolate before they develop symptoms will help control the spread.
What happens if I test negative?	You should continue to follow the preventative measures currently recommended for stopping the spread of the virus. Act as if you have the virus at all times. To protect yourself and others, you must remember: Hands. Face. Space. - Hands – wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water often, and as soon as you get home - use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available. - Face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet. - Space – stay at least 2 metres away from anyone you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble.
Is this a one off test?	It is recommended you test twice a week. If you get symptoms please book in for a free PCR test via https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.
What evidence would be provided that someone has been tested?	You will receive your results by text soon after you leave the test centre. If you do not receive your results within twenty-four hours of having your test please return for another one.

Where are my local sites and what are the opening times and days?	Please see https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/16961/Find-your-nearest-site for your local sites and opening hours.
Can I access home test kits?	Anyone over the age of 18 yrs. can access home test kits at the Trusthorpe, Louth, Horncastle and Skegness sites during the sites opening times - https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/16961/Find-your-nearest-site

You will be issued a maximum of two boxes.

When testing at you will need to register results online or call 119. You should self-isolate if positive and order a confirmatory PCR test at https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

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