

Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

Find out who is eligible for twice-weekly testing and how to get tested if **you do not** have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

The following people in England will have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing made available to them as schools reopen:

- secondary school pupils
- [primary and secondary school staff](#)
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary staff

Find out about [childcare bubbles](#) and [support bubbles](#). [Learn what rapid lateral flow testing is and why it's being used.](#)

How to get a rapid lateral flow test:

There are different ways to get a test for school staff, pupils, and members of their households, childcare and support bubbles in England who do not have symptoms of coronavirus.

Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils

This section does not apply to secondary school pupils, and primary and secondary school staff, who should take twice-weekly tests using home test kits provided by their school.

From 1 March 2021, if you are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Get a test through your employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)

Collect test kits

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

Order home test kits online

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

What twice-weekly testing involves

You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)
 - report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test
- [Report your test result online](#) or by calling 119.

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

- self-isolate immediately
 - get a PCR test to confirm the result
 - follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)
- A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including:
- regular handwashing
 - social distancing
 - wearing a face covering where recommended

If you have coronavirus symptoms

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, arrange to have a **PCR test** if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home self-sampling kit, a test site appointment or a test result. Do not use the rapid lateral flow testing service as this is only for people without symptoms.

[Order a test for people with symptoms](#) online or call 119.