



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxon>)
3. Education, universities and childcare during coronavirus (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxon/education-and-childcare>)

Part of
Education, universities and childcare during coronavirus
(<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxon/education-and-childcare>)

Guidance

Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests

Find out who is eligible for twice-weekly testing and how to get tested if you do not have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). This guidance is for people without symptoms.

From:

Department of Health and Social Care (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>)

Published:

27 February 2021

Last updated:

26 March 2021,

Contents

- Staff of primary or secondary schools, nurseries and colleges
- Secondary school pupils and college students
- Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges
- Get a test through your employer
- Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site
- Collect test kits
- Order home test kits online
- Related occupations
- What twice-weekly testing involves
- If you have coronavirus symptoms

[Print this page](#)

The following people in England have access regular rapid lateral flow testing:

- secondary school pupils and college students
- staff of primary and secondary schools, nurseries and colleges
- households, childcare and support bubbles of nursery children, primary and secondary-age pupils and college students
- households, childcare and support bubbles of staff of nursery-age children, primary and secondary-school age children, and college students
- anyone who works in a related occupation

Children of primary school age or younger will not be asked to test.

Find out about childcare bubbles (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>) and support bubbles (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household>).

Learn what rapid lateral flow testing is and why it's being used. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>)

Staff of primary or secondary schools, nurseries and colleges

Teaching and non-teaching staff working in schools, nurseries and colleges should take twice-weekly tests using a home test kit provided by their school, nursery or college. This includes permanent, temporary and voluntary staff.

Staff should contact their school, nursery or college for further details.

Secondary school pupils and college students

Pupils and students should take twice-weekly tests using a home test kit provided by their school or college. They should report all results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by calling 119.

Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges

If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble of an early years child, a pupil, student or staff of a school, nursery or college, 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 (<https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>).

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.

Most collection points are open from 1.30pm to 7pm. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.

Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.

Find your nearest home test kit collection point (<https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>).

Order home test kits online

You can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests for home delivery. Your tests should arrive within 2 days.

Order rapid lateral flow home test kits (<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>)

Related occupations

Your work qualifies as an occupation related to a school, college, nursery or early-years childcare provider if it puts you in close contact or helps support the return of children and staff to school.

You also qualify if you work for an organisation (like an agency) that puts you into close contact with returning school staff and students, for example:

- school bus or coach drivers, and other public transport bus drivers
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) school transport drivers or assistants
- childminders
- wraparound childcare staff
- childcare staff in an open residential homes
- childcare providers
- foster carers

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 (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>) or by calling 119.

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>)

Pupils, students and staff should also tell their school or college if they test positive.

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 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19>) 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 (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>) online or call 119.

Published 27 February 2021

Last updated 26 March 2021 + show all updates

1. 26 March 2021

Clarified related occupations who should get tested twice weekly.

2. 19 March 2021

New information explaining what 'related occupations' are to schools, nurseries and college staff and students. Added 'early years education' because the service includes childminders and childcare staff who do not work in nurseries.

3. 16 March 2021

Removed "Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most." Replaced with "You can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests for home delivery. Your tests should arrive within 2 days."

4. 12 March 2021

Updated guide so it applies to nursery staff, and anyone in the household or support bubble of nursery children and nursery staff.

5. 5 March 2021

Updated to reflect that guidance also applies to colleges.

6. 4 March 2021

Updated to inform people not to visit a collection point outside of opening hours. Also to inform people they do not need to make an appointment to attend a collection point during opening hours.

7. 1 March 2021

Re-inserted link to find your nearest home test kit collection point.

8. 1 March 2021

Added link to order rapid lateral flow home test kits.

9. 1 March 2021

Removed the link to find your nearest home test kit collection point as there are technical problems preventing the map from working.

10. 27 February 2021

First published.

[Print this page](#)

Related content

Collection

- Information for parents and carers: coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/information-for-parents-and-carers-coronavirus-covid-19>)

Brexit

-  Check
-  Change
-  Go

Check what you need to do

(<https://www.gov.uk/transition>)

Explore the topic

- Education, universities and childcare during coronavirus (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxation/education-and-childcare>)
- Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxation/testing>)