

This information is no longer applicable - please see updated document

Dear All,

As some of you may be aware, a testing centre is opening in Portsmouth at the following address **Tipnor Lorry Park, Portsmouth, PO2 8RA.**

A solution for testing on the IOW will be communicated in the next few days.

During the first week of the opening of the testing centre at Portsmouth, we will be encouraging LRF partners to send eligible key workers or their symptomatic household members to take advantage of the drop in service from tomorrow, Tuesday 21st April from 2-5pm and then Wednesday 22nd from 10-1pm and 2-5pm until the end of the week. For those using the drop in offer, please do try and space out your visits, so they are not all at 10am.

Testing key workers for the presence of COVID-19 will ensure we can maintain critical services and prevent the spread of infection. By rolling out testing to staff/volunteers and their families/household members, it will end uncertainty and unnecessary self-isolation for many of our key workers and volunteers, boosting the number of people who can return to work to maintain critical services.

This process may alter by the end of the week due to a digital solution being rolled out to enable key workers to book an appointment, however, this will be communicated with you in due course, the operating times of 10-1pm and 2-5pm will not be subject to change, and the site will operate 7 days a week.

Who is eligible for testing?

- If a key worker is self-isolating because they are symptomatic, and have been symptomatic for less than 5 days, then they are eligible for testing.
- If a key worker is self-isolating because a household member is symptomatic, then all symptomatic household members who have been symptomatic for less than 5 days are eligible for testing
- If a key worker is self-isolating because a household member between the ages of 5-18 years old is symptomatic, then all symptomatic household members between the ages of 5-18 who have been symptomatic for less than 5 days are eligible for testing (Note: 5-18 year olds will require a parent or guardian to perform the test in a self-test bay, we cannot test under 5's)

Please be aware, you or your household member must be symptomatic, if not, you will be turned away at the testing centre. The test is only viable for people with symptoms.

Who is a key worker?

- All NHS and social care staff, including hospital, community and primary care, and staff providing support to frontline NHS services (for example accommodation, catering) and voluntary workers
- Police, fire and rescue services
- Local authority staff, including those working with vulnerable children, adults and victims of domestic abuse, and those working with the homeless and rough sleepers
- Defence, prisons and probation staff, and judiciary
- Frontline benefits workers
- Where there is extra testing capacity, we will also expand testing to other groups of workers that need it. This will include those delivering critical medical, energy, utility, transport and food supplies in both the public and private sector.

More detail around key workers eligible for testing can be found at the following link, where LRF partners identify business critical services that are not identified we would ask them to flag via the business continuity cell.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-extend-testing-for-coronavirus-to-more-frontline-workers?utm_source=7985db27-978c-4d78-b1e5-81071a367576&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is leading coordination of testing across all registered care. They will be able to book in directly with the Portsmouth centre, however this self-referral portal might replace this. We also understand that OFSTED are also making contact direct with colleagues.

What do I need to bring?

Key workers attending the drop-in session will need to bring their work ID with them to access the service. Household members will need to be accompanied by a keyworker with their work ID. A smartphone is also recommended as this is part of the process that you will have to go through once you are on site.

What do I need to do on the day?

Key workers and household members **must** arrive at the test centre in a car, we cannot admit people who have turned up in public transport, taxi or on foot. You will not be able to exit your car at any point on site, and please note that there are no toilet facilities on site. You can arrive at any point in the day between the times suggested above. You will be asked to show your work ID before you are admitted.

Where the person to be swabbed cannot attend the site, we would ask they discuss this with their employer. We are working on solutions around home testing.

The actual process of being tested is very simple and only involves a single swab being taken from both the throat and the nose. It should take no more than 10 minutes.

The test is a PCR test, to test whether the person has COVID-19. It is not an antibody test to identify if they have had or are immune to the virus.

The test centre will aim to do the swab test / provide you with the self-test kits as quickly as possible and will usually mean that you will complete the process within 30 minutes of arrival. However, this can vary at busy periods.

When will I receive my results?

We aim to deliver results back to you via text in 24-72 hours. However, from past experience the majority of test results have been received by the individual in the 24-48 hour window. We encourage you to contact your employer informing them of your results and to follow the relevant government guidance.