

Staff Briefing

Covid-19 testing expanded



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The government has expanded Covid-19 testing to include testing for everyone over the age of five with symptoms.

If you have symptoms then a negative test would allow you to leave self-isolation and return to work more quickly. You should continue to follow the government guidance on self-isolation on [NHS Inform](https://www.nhs.uk/inform).

The council is following the government guidance on testing to protect the running of essential services. If you are currently leaving home to go to work then you could be considered a priority according to the government guidance. You can read the government's guidance on testing at [www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-key-workers-in-Scotland/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-key-workers-in-scotland/)

People working in the health and social care sector will still remain the top priority for testing in Scotland.

You should continue to report your absence in the normal way and to your line manager.

When to get tested?

- You need to have the test in the first five days of having symptoms.
- It's best to ask for the test in the first three days, as it may take a day or two to arrange.
- To check your symptoms go to [NHS Inform](https://www.nhs.uk/inform)

The test is only guaranteed to be accurate if someone is symptomatic. The test will confirm if an individual who is showing symptoms of the virus actually has it. It will not confirm whether they have had it and have now recovered.

How do I book a test?

- You should now book a test on the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
- If you can't use the website you can phone **0300 303 2713** to arrange a test.
- The main drive-through test centre is at Glasgow airport and you will need a car to attend.
- Tests are also available through the mobile testing units across the country, which move every five days or so. If you book a test you will be offered a test at the centre closest to your own postcode.
- A home testing kit is also an option on the website but this is subject to availability.
- If you don't have access to a car then we may be able to help you with transport to the test centre, you should contact your Service HR Team, the details are below.

Full guidance can be found at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

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I need more support

If you need any support to book a test or you are having difficulty with transport, then you can contact your service HR team. Please provide your HR team with your payroll/employee SAP number and a telephone number.

Service	Contacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Education Services <p>Please email one of the contacts opposite</p>	Katrina Smith katrina.smith@glasgow.gov.uk James Stevenson james.stevenson@glasgow.gov.uk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Neighbourhoods and Sustainability, including City Parking <p>Please email one of the contacts opposite</p>	Danielle McGrory danielle.mcgrory@glasgow.gov.uk Andrew Ralston andrew.ralston@glasgow.gov.uk Moira Wilson moira.wilson@glasgow.gov.uk
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chief Executive's DepartmentCity PropertyDevelopment and Regeneration ServicesFinancial Services	Jackie McCormack jacqueline.mccormack@glasgow.gov.uk

Frequently asked questions

1. What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

To check your symptoms go to [NHS Inform](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/)

2. If my symptoms get worse what should I do?

If you are concerned about worsening symptoms, please call NHS24 on 111.

3. I had symptoms a few week ago, should I now be tested to find out if I've had the virus?

No. The test is only guaranteed to be accurate if you are currently symptomatic. The test will confirm if an individual who is showing symptoms of the virus actually has it. It will not confirm whether they have had it and have now recovered.

4. If I receive a negative test when should I return to work?

Even if you receive a negative result, it's important to still apply caution. If everyone with symptoms who was tested in your household receive a negative result, then you can return to

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work if your work cannot be done from home, providing you are well enough, and have not had a fever for 48 hours. You should discuss your return to work with your line manager.

5. If I receive a negative test then develop symptoms, what should I do?

If, after returning to work, you develop symptoms then you should follow the [NHS Inform guidance](#) and self-isolate. You should then consider going for another test.

6. How do I get my test results?

Results under the UK testing programme are communicated to individuals directly by text message within 48 hours and are intended to be fed back into public health records in due course. When you get your test results you should share the results with your line manager.

7. I have a question about test results?

Any questions about accessing testing, the website, or results should be made through opshub@dhsc.gov.uk.

8. I need help with transport to the test centre, what do I do?

We may be able to help you with transport to the test centre and back. You should contact your Service HR Team to discuss this support.