

## How and where to get a COVID test

Click '[Get a coronavirus test](#)' for more information.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can call 119 to book or order a test. Lines are open 7am to 11pm.

A test for suspected COVID-19 is free and NHS treatment for COVID-19 is free for all, including overseas visitors who are not usually entitled to free treatment from the NHS.

## Symptoms

Anyone with [symptoms](#) can get a coronavirus test, whatever their age.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Specific advice for '[Coronavirus in children](#)'

## When to test?

You need to get the test done in the first 5 days of having symptoms.

Book a visit to a test site to have the test today. Or order a home test kit if you cannot get to a test site.

On days 1 to 4 of your symptoms, you can get tested at a site or at home. If you are ordering a home test kit on day 4, do it by 3pm.

On day 5, you need to go to a test site. It is too late to order a home test kit.

If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, you and anyone you live with must stay at home ([self-isolate](#)). Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home.

## Websites which contain all the information you need

[Brighton and Hove City Council](#) (including links to translated materials. You can get an advocate, proxy, or interpreter to help you book a test

[Government website](#)

[NHS website](#)

[Coronavirus in children](#)

## Essential workers

Employers can refer [essential workers](#) for testing if they are self-isolating because either they or member(s) of their household have coronavirus symptoms. Referred essential workers will then receive a text message with a unique invitation code to [book a test for themselves](#)

## Care home residents or staff members

There is a separate testing service for [care home residents or staff members](#). They are still eligible for the test even if they do not currently have symptoms.

## Test sites: drive-through

The government is establishing a network of drive-through and walk-through test sites.

[A video](#) has been produced explaining the process for drive-through testing

If you work in a high risk setting, a front line service or occupation you can [book a drive-through test](#) using the government's new self-referral portal. This gives you access to the closest regional testing site at Gatwick:

- **Gatwick** - Gatwick Airport, Summer Special Car Park, Horley, Gatwick RH6 0PJ

## Home testing

Home test kits can be delivered to someone's door so they can test themselves and their family without leaving the house.

You can also read:

- the [coronavirus home test: step-by-step guide](#)
- the [coronavirus test guide: how to test on a child](#)

## Antibody tests to check if you have had coronavirus

An [antibody test](#) is a blood test to check if you have had coronavirus (COVID-19) before. It is not widely available yet. It is currently offered to NHS and care staff, as well as some hospital patients and care home residents.

This will help show who has had the virus and how it is spreading in the UK.

Home antibody test kits are not currently recommended, as it has not been confirmed if they are safe and reliable yet.

## Mobile testing units

Mobile testing units travel around the UK to increase access to coronavirus testing. They respond to need, travelling to test essential workers at sites including care homes, police stations and prisons.

New units are being brought into operation each day. We are not aware of any such units operating in Brighton at present.

## Satellite centres

NHS capability is being increased by providing test kits directly to 'satellite' centres at places like hospitals that have a particularly urgent or significant need.

## NHS facilities

Testing within an NHS facility such as a hospital is available for patients and some NHS workers. Information on testing at local hospitals is available [here](#).

## Accessible resources on testing

- **NEW:** [Beyond Words is providing free picture stories and illustrated guides to support people with learning disabilities and autism through the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- [Resources from Learning Disability England](#)
- [Signhealth advice for testing](#)
- [NHS guidelines translated into up to 50 languages by Doctors of the World](#) and find video advice [here](#)
- [Easy read information on COVID-19](#) from Mencap

[About the NHS Test and Trace scheme](#)

[What to do if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace](#)

The NHS have also created [easy read posters like this](#) so people know when and how to get a test for coronavirus.



Share your experiences of health and social care services with us:

[office@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk](mailto:office@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk)

01273 234040

### Follow us

Facebook      @healthwatchbrightonandhove

Twitter        @HealthwatchBH

Instagram     healthwatchbh

Website: [www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk)