

Types of coronavirus test

There are two types of coronavirus tests:

PCR Tests for people who do have coronavirus symptoms

- The polymerase chain reaction (**PCR**) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample
- This test must be booked online or by calling 119
- The test can be sent to people at home or they can attend a walk-through centre and the sample is sent for processing at a laboratory
- Most people get their result the next day, but it may take up to three days.

LFD Tests for people who do not have coronavirus symptoms

- Lateral Flow Device (**LFD**) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus. These are also known as Lateral Flow Tests (**LFT**)
- These simple and quick tests enable us to rapidly test without the need for a laboratory
- They can be self-administered and the results are given in 30 minutes.

Key points: Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD) - for people with no symptoms

- This test is only for **asymptomatic** testing
- From a positive LFD result, people must isolate immediately. If the test is taken at home they will need to **book a confirmatory PCR test**
- Contact tracing and isolation of bubbles should start from a positive LFD in all settings
- The 10-day isolation period begins from the day after the first test, whether it is an LFD or a PCR. The

For primary and nursery schools and maintained nurseries

- Individuals with a positive LFD result will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#) and book a confirmatory PCR test online
- If this PCR test result is positive they must complete the full self-isolation period
- If this PCR test result is negative, and they have no symptoms of COVID-19, they and their household can stop isolating and the child can return to school
- For staff doing home testing, a positive PCR result will trigger the legal obligation to self-isolate.

Anyone with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. This is because you could pass the infection on to others, even if you don't have symptoms.

Stay at Home Guidance

Self-isolate for 10 full days. You need to self-isolate from the day the first person in your household started symptoms and for the next 10 full days. If they did not have symptoms, self-isolate from the day of their test and for the next 10 full days. To self-isolate means: Do not go to work, school, or public areas and do not use public transport or taxis. Only leave your home to get to your test if you need to, observe strict social distancing advice and return immediately afterwards.