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**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>)

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About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

The following people in England will have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing made available to them:

- secondary school pupils and college students
- staff of primary and secondary schools, nurseries and colleges

- households, childcare and support bubbles of early years children, nursery children, primary and secondary-age pupils and college students
- households, childcare and support bubbles of staff of nurseries, primary and secondary schools, and colleges
- anyone who works in an occupation related to a childcare provider, school, nursery or college, and their household, childcare and support bubbles

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

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>)

## **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.

## **How to get a rapid lateral flow test**

There are different ways to get a test for pupils, students and staff of nurseries, schools and colleges, and members of their households, childcare and support bubbles in England who do not have symptoms of coronavirus.

## **Secondary school pupils and college students**

Upon returning to school or college, pupils and students will be asked to take their:

- first 3 tests at their place of study under the supervision of a trained operator
- fourth test themselves using a home test kit

Pupils and students will then continue taking 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 telephone, as set out in the home test kit instructions.

## **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.

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

This section does not apply to:

- secondary school pupils
- college students
- staff of schools, nurseries or colleges

Take twice-weekly tests using home test kits provided by your school, nursery or college if you're one of these pupils, students or staff.

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>)

## 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

## Related occupations

Someone is in an occupation related to early years childcare providers, nurseries, schools and colleges if they do at least one of the following:

- support students and staff returning to schools and nurseries, and expect greater contact following the return
- are in close contact with childcare providers, schools, nurseries or colleges as part of a household, support or childcare bubble
- provide essential care putting them in close contact with nursery-age children, primary and secondary-age pupils or college students

## Children's social care – open residential homes

Open residential homes are the full-time households of the children who live there. The care staff who look after these children are their main 'family' social bubble.

Care staff frequently come and go from the home, and the children have regular face-to-face contact with professionals and birth relatives.

## **Foster carers**

All foster carers with responsibility for primary and secondary pupils, and nursery and early years age children.

## **Childminders and wraparound childcare staff**

'Wraparound childcare' is childcare provided outside of normal school hours, such as breakfast clubs or after-school childcare. Wraparound childcare staff and childminders should continue to get tested by either their employer or use test sites. Alternatively, they can order tests online for home delivery.

## **Bus drivers**

All public transport bus drivers and school bus drivers should get tested by either their employer or use test sites. Alternatively, they can order tests online for home delivery.

## **SEND school transport**

Drivers and passenger assistants providing transport to pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) may be able to get tests at the school of the pupils they support. If not, they can collect a home test kit from a test site or order one online.

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### **1. 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.

### **2. 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."

### **3. 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.

### **4. 5 March 2021**

Updated to reflect that guidance also applies to colleges.

### **5. 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.

### **6. 1 March 2021**

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

### **7. 1 March 2021**

Added link to order rapid lateral flow home test kits.

### **8. 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.

9. 27 February 2021

First published.




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## 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>)

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

### Explore the topic

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- Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxon/testing>)