

## **HIOW LFR Coronavirus (COVID-19) getting tested update April 2020**

This document supersedes previous guidance about access to testing and follows the announcement about digital solutions.

Further detail about accessing the IOW sites has been shared with IOW colleagues, however to request home test kits the guidance below equally applies to the IOW.

From Monday 27 April 2020 the Portsmouth site will no longer be drop in and the digital booking service will be the point of access, either through the employer referral portal or the self-referral portal, detail as below.

We advise all LRF members, and key worker employers to sign up to the employer referral service, this will give priority over self-referrals, but that is the only difference between the referral points.

Only the person being tested will receive the test results.

Up to date information on testing is on the government website below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

### **Who can be tested**

Our priority is testing patients to inform their clinical diagnosis. In addition, we are now also testing:

- essential workers with symptoms
- people who live with essential workers and have symptoms

This means essential workers can find out whether they have the virus, and we can help them return to work if they test negative. Testing is most effective within 3 days of symptoms developing.

See the [full list of essential workers](#), below.

A new campaign will help essential workers in England - including NHS and care staff, teachers, hospital cleaners, public servants, the emergency services, supermarket staff, delivery drivers, and other critical infrastructure staff - to access testing.

Booking the test has been made simpler via a new online system. Employers can [register and refer self-isolating staff](#), and employees will be able to [book a test directly for themselves or members of their household](#) who are experiencing symptoms – a high temperature or new continuous cough.

### **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.

## **Arrange a test**

We aim to return test results within 48 hours of a swab being taken, or within 72 hours for a home test. We encourage you to contact you employer informing them of your results and to follow the relevant government guidance.

## **Self-referral**

Essential workers who are self-isolating can [book a test directly](#). You can select a regional test site drive-through appointment or home test kit.

Home test kit availability will initially be limited but more will become available. There is good availability of regional test sites, so please select this option if you can.

## **Employer referral**

The employer referral portal allows employers to refer essential workers who are self-isolating either because they or member(s) of their household have coronavirus symptoms, for testing. It is a secure portal for employers to use to upload the full list of names and contact details of self-isolating essential workers.

If referred through this portal, essential workers will receive a text message with a unique invitation code to book a test for themselves (if symptomatic) or their symptomatic household member(s) at a regional testing site.

In order to obtain a login, employers of essential workers should email [portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk) with 2 email addresses that will primarily be used to load essential worker contact details.

Once employer details have been verified, 2 login credentials will be issued for the employer referral portal.

Read the [privacy notice on coronavirus testing for essential workers](#).

## **The testing process**

The test involves taking a swab of the nose and the back of the throat, which can be done by the person themselves (self-administered) or by someone else (assisted). The test are 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 different ways you can get tested are covered below.

## **Regional testing sites**

We are establishing a network of drive-through regional testing sites. We are aiming to open up to 50 sites by the end of April. The aim is that most people should not have to drive for more than 45 minutes to get to a regional testing site.

Watch a video explaining the process for drive-through testing:

[Coronavirus tests for essential workers.](#)

## **Home testing**

Home test kits can be delivered to someone's door so they can test themselves and their family without leaving the house. Home test kit availability will be initially limited, but more will become available.

A delivery service for home testing kits has been designed with key industry partners, including Royal Mail and Amazon. The home delivery service will come on line from tomorrow. The availability of home testing kits will initially be limited, but more will become available soon. This will ensure those not able to travel to a test centre can still take the test, find out their results and return to work if possible.

Working with Public Health England, the Care Quality Commission and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the government is sending packages of 'satellite' test kits directly to care homes across England, to enable testing of symptomatic residents

## **Mobile testing units**

Mobile testing units are being developed. They will operate out of a regional testing site and travel to offer tests where they are needed.

The plans for how this will operate in HLOW will be shared in due course.

## Hampshire Testing Site

The Government is rapidly scaling up the national effort to boost testing capacity for coronavirus to protect the vulnerable, support our NHS, and ultimately save lives.

As part of this it has launched a number of regional testing sites including the one in Portsmouth. This new service will help end the uncertainty of whether NHS and social care staff and other key workers need to stay at home, meaning those who test negative will be able to return to work.

The test is simple and only involves a single swab being taken from both the throat and the nose. It should take no more than 10 minutes with the whole process usually completed within 30 minutes of arrival at the testing site.

Staff tested should receive their results within 72 hours when they will be able to inform their line manager and, if the results return as negative, may be able to return to work if they are well enough to do so.

It is important to note that the test is only available to key workers, as defined by the Government, who are symptomatic or are self-isolating as member of their household is symptomatic.

Full details of eligibility and how key workers can access a test have been shared with all HIOW LRF members.

The testing site can only be accessed off the M275 Tipner Junction (J1), the postcode is PO2 8AN. you will be directed by staff once at the Park and Ride.

The Portsmouth site opened on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 and times of operation are currently from 10-1pm and 2-5pm 7 days a week. These this might be extend dependent upon demand.

The initial operation for the site was for drop in however from Monday 27 April 2020 access to the site will be for booked appointments only.

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.

We are aware a smaller testing site will open at the Farnborough International Exhibition Centre car park by the end of April, at that point this will become an option via the digital booking solution.

As further sites become operational we will update LRF colleagues.

Further detail about accessing the IOW sites has been shared with IOW colleagues, however to request home test kits the guidance below equally applies to the IOW.

## List of essential workers and those prioritised for testing by Government

- all NHS and social care staff, including:
  - doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers
  - the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector
  - those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines, and medical and personal protective equipment
- essential public services staff, including:
  - prisons, probation, courts and tribunals staff, judiciary
  - religious staff
  - charities and workers delivering critical frontline services
  - those responsible for the management of the deceased
  - journalists and broadcasters covering coronavirus or providing public service broadcasting
- public safety and national security staff, including:
  - police and support staff
  - Ministry of Defence civilians, contractors and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of critical defence and national security outputs and critical to the response to the coronavirus pandemic)
  - fire and rescue service employees (including support staff),
  - National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas
- Transport workers, including:
  - those who keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus response
  - those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass
- education and childcare workers, including:
  - support and teaching staff
  - social workers
  - specialist education professionals
- critical personnel in the production and distribution of food, drink and essential goods, including:
  - those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery
  - those critical to the provision of other essential goods, such as medical supply chain and distribution workers, including veterinary medicine
  - workers critical to the continuity of essential movement of goods
- local and national government staff critical to the effective delivery of the coronavirus response, or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits
- public and environmental health staff, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies
- frontline local authority staff, including those working with vulnerable children and adults, with victims of domestic abuse, and with the homeless and rough sleepers
- utilities, communication and financial services staff, including:
  - staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
  - the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)

- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus response
- essential staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 essential services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors