Covid-19 - the right test helps protect us all
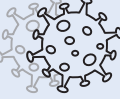
There are TWO different types of Covid-19 tests, which test you take usually depends on whether or not you have symptoms.

It's really important that people understand the difference between the two types of tests and when they should be taking them. Testing correctly and regularly will make sure we are keeping infection levels low and our communities safe.

Which Covid-19 test should you take?

You must continue testing even if you have been vaccinated

		PCR test	Rapid symptom-free test (LFT)
	Who is it for?	People **with** Covid-19 symptoms, or generally unwell with other symptoms*	**PEOPLE WITH NO SYMPTOMS**
	Is it sent away for processing?	✓	✗
	Results received:	Within up to **72 hours**	Within up to **30 minutes**
	Tells if you have Covid-19?	✓	✓
	Can be checked for variants?	✓	✗

*see overleaf for when to take a PCR test

PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests

are used when a person has any Covid symptoms (new continuous cough, fever, loss in or change of taste or smell, OR feel generally unwell) and they mostly take place at testing sites. They are then tested at a laboratory. If you take a PCR test because you have one of the main Covid-19 symptoms you and your household must isolate until you have your test result as you may be infectious. If you are testing because you are feeling unwell with other symptoms, you don't need to isolate unless you get a positive result. If your result is positive you must all isolate for 10 full days so you don't pass the virus on. You may also be asked to take a PCR test as a precaution by your local council or NHS (even if you don't have any symptoms).

Find local test sites and how to get a home test at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
For help and support with self-isolating visit www.dudley.gov.uk/self-isolation

Rapid symptom-free tests - also known as lateral flow tests (LFT)

can be done at home and give a result in just 30 minutes. This test must **not** be used if you have any symptoms. LFT should be used by us all - ideally we should get into the habit of doing them at least twice a week. 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 don't show any symptoms. Already the rapid tests have picked up 146,000 positive covid cases across the UK, helping to stop the spread. **If you test positive on a rapid test (LFT), isolate along with your household and get a PCR test immediately to confirm your result.**

Free boxes of rapid tests (LFT) can be picked up at test centres, participating pharmacies or ordered online - find out your local collection point at www.dudley.gov.uk/symptomfree

For latest information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/coronavirus   May 2021

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Metropolitan Borough Council

When to get a PCR test

If you have any one of the main symptoms of COVID-19:

- a new, continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

...you should immediately self-isolate and book a test.

If you are showing any of the following symptoms:

- headaches
- sore throat
- sneezing
- feeling very tired for no good reason
- aches and pains
- runny nose
- tummy ache in children

...you are advised to book a test as a precaution. If you have any of these other symptoms you do not need to isolate unless you have a positive test result.

Book a test at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119

If you're booking a precautionary test, select that your council has asked you to do so.

Remember 🖐 **HANDS** 😷 **FACE** 👥 **SPACE** 🧪 **TEST**

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