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**Coronavirus (COVID-19):
what you need to do**

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

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Department
of Health &
Social Care

Guidance

Testing for coronavirus: privacy information – quick read

Updated 1 May 2020

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Introduction

The government is rolling out a coronavirus testing programme, and you have chosen to book a home test or a test at a regional test site, because you have either been:

- invited by your employer to undertake a test
- self-registered for a test, as a keyworker
- identified as a care home resident or you reside in a similar property, or work in a care home
- a keyworker whose role means you cannot work from home
- identified as a person aged 65 or older, and live in a household where someone is showing signs of coronavirus

The test will confirm whether you currently have coronavirus. You will be sent a text message and/or email message with your test result.

The result of the test will enable you or other members in your household to know what action to take, for example, possibly returning to work, depending on your result.

The test is completely voluntary. You do not have to register for, or take, a test. You can cancel the test that you have booked but are encouraged to take it.

If you do take the test, please follow the instructions when you register for a test. The different tests have different instructions.

Data controller

This testing programme has been commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and they decide what information is required and how it needs to be used.

DHSC are working together with the Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh governments, who may have their own testing processes specific to their area, along with [country-specific information relating to coronavirus](#).

What personal data we collect

You need to submit your details on the website to register to be tested for coronavirus and to receive a home testing kit or an invite to attend at an allotted regional test site.

If you cannot [book a test online](#), you can book a test by calling 0300 303 2713.

Each test option will require slightly different details. The details we may need from you are:

- first and last name
- date of birth
- sex
- mobile phone number
- email address
- postcode
- vehicle registration number – if booking a test at a regional test site
- National Insurance (NINO) number – if you are a key worker

For the home test option, you will need to follow the instructions provided with the testing kit, as different test suppliers may have different instructions.

At a regional test site, you need to follow the instructions given to you, both on registering and then on arrival at the site.

Your testing kit will be allocated a unique reference number and we will keep a record of the date and time your test was taken. This is important for the laboratory to know. We will link your test's unique reference number with your test

registration record, which consists of the information listed above.

After your coronavirus test, we will also collect and process your test results (this is health data which is special category data under the GDPR), so we can inform you of your result, and what steps you need to take next.

Care home testing

Testing has been rolled out to care homes, and other similar residences, such as residential homes and hospices with associated community services, for example, Hospice at Home. This also includes children's homes run by local authorities.

If you are resident in a care home, you will be tested where you live. The manager of the home can register you for a test.

The test may be done either by a mobile testing unit that visits the home, or by conducting a home test with a home testing kit. Once the sample has been taken, it will be collected by courier and sent for analysis.

Your result will be sent to the manager of the home, so they can inform you of the result and next steps that need to be taken. For example, being moved to reduce the risk of spreading the infection. This is only for test results for COVID19 – all other test results will be treated in the normal way.

If you have a Power of Attorney who is legally responsible for you, the result will also be shared with them. For English residents, your test result will also be sent to your GP to update your medical records.

For staff who work in this area, you will also be eligible for testing. This could be done either by a mobile testing unit (if they visit on a day you work), if the manager of the home requests a test kit for you (the manager may register staff individually, but must input your contact number and email address), or you self-register.

Your result will be sent to you, along with information about next steps, and not to the manager of the home. We strongly encourage you to share your result with your manager, but you do not have to.

If you live in England, your result will also be sent to your GP to update your medical records.

What purposes your data will be used for

DHSC are the data controller for the following purposes:

- confirming your appointment
- performing a security and ID verification at the test centre
- receiving and processing your test
- returning your results to you
- undertaking quality assurance of the testing process – for example, clinical process assurance
- analysis to support operational decisions to improve the full end-to-end testing process, such as:
 - day-to-day operational use – for example, whether someone attended their appointment
 - to inform test site process improvements – for example, manage test site capacity or throughput
 - to support logistics planning

Data processors and other recipients of your data

DHSC have appointed data processors to carry out the following activities:

- registration, appointment scheduling and capture of information at the point of taking the test at a regional test site, or booking a home test
- verify your identity – this may include various organisations who run the regional test sites, or verification by your employer (if you have booked a test as an employee). We may use an agency, who will check your identity (this is not a credit check and does not affect your credit score)
- overseeing the logistics of test kit deliveries
- transporting and delivering kits
- link your personal details, provided on registering for the test, to the test result
- forward your test results, email address, and phone number to NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to send you your test results. This does not apply to Welsh residents – further [information on how they get their is available](#)
- receive data to enable your results to be communicated back to you by text message and email, along with supporting information

For English residents, we will link your test result to your GP record, so you do not need to inform your GP of your result.

If you are resident in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, there is [country-specific information](#).

Data retention

We will retain your personal data for up to 8 years, in accordance with the [Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016](#), but will dispose of your data sooner if it is appropriate to do so.

If you live in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, there is [country-specific information on retention of records](#).

Data storage

Your data will be stored and processed in the UK. Fully anonymous data such as statistical data (which does not allow you to be identified) may be stored and processed outside of the UK.

Legal basis under GDPR and DPA 2018

DHSC's legal basis for processing your personal data is:

- GDPR Article 6(1)(e) – the processing is necessary for the performance of its official tasks carried out in the public interest in providing and managing a health service
- GDPR Article 9(2)(h) – the processing is necessary for medical diagnosis, the provision of health treatment and management of a health and social care system
- DPA 2018 – Schedule 1, Part 1, (2) (f) – Health or social care purposes

Your rights as a data subject

Your rights as a data subject are unaffected by this programme. You can contact any organisation involved in handling your personal data to find out more about how they use it.

If you have a complaint about how your information is being used, you should contact the specific organisation in the first instance. If this is unsuccessful, you can also raise a complaint with the [Information Commissioner's Office](#).

Data Protection Officer

DHSC's Data Protection Officer is John Ryder.

Email: data.protection@dhsc.gov.uk

For more detailed information about the testing programme, or for details of who is processing data on behalf of DHSC, you can [read the privacy information in full](#).

Residents in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland

If you live in Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland, you can get information specific to your country about how your government will use your information:

- [Wales](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Scotland](#)

Is this page
useful?

[Yes](#)

[No](#)

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