

Covid Testing for Key Workers

The Government is, From 24th April, expanding testing to key workers and members of their household who have coronavirus-like symptoms to see if they currently have the virus.

Who is eligible?

In England, essential public services staff, 'including journalists and broadcasters covering coronavirus or providing public service broadcasting' are eligible for testing. Please see further information on who is eligible in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#).

How to access testing

There are two routes to access testing:

Self-referral – essential workers who are isolating because they or members of their household have coronavirus-like symptoms may register for a test through the [self-referral portal](#). Further guidance on how to use the portal is available in the Government's Self-referral Portal: User Guide pdf found [here](#). This portal will allow essential workers to access:

- [Appointments at regional testing sites](#) – the Government is establishing a network of drive-through testing sites throughout the UK and aims to open at least 50 sites by the end of April.
- [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.

Employer referral – The employer referral portal is a secure portal for employers to use to upload the full list of names and contact details of self-isolating essential workers. To access the portal, employers should email portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk with

- organisation name
- nature of the organisation's business
- region
- names (where possible) and 2 email addresses that will primarily be used to load essential worker contact details.

Employers will then be provided with log in credentials. 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.

Full, regularly updated Government guidance is available [here](#).