

INTRODUCTION

Around 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and may be unknowingly spreading the virus. To help stop the virus spreading, the government is making millions of rapid test kits available across England via the [community testing](#) offer.

NHS Test and Trace is supporting businesses and public sector bodies to implement rapid testing, using Lateral Flow Test Devices. The devices are designed to be intuitive and require minimal training to operate. They do not require a laboratory to process the test meaning that results are delivered within an hour.

In addition to scaling up employer-led testing, targeted community testing is now being rolled out across all local authorities in England, with local authorities being encouraged to target testing to people who are unable to work from home.

Millions of asymptomatic critical workers are already being tested every week, such as NHS patient-facing staff and care home staff. Existing plans for the rapid testing of staff and students in secondary schools and colleges, and staff in primary schools, are also in place.

This brief gives an overview of what the process looks like and explains how businesses can access the testing programme.

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Members are invited to contact the ALP if they have any other questions about the contents of this brief.

GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RAPID TESTING OFFER FOR WORKERS UNABLE TO WORK FROM HOME – FOOD SECTOR

The food sector is a critical industry where workers cannot work from home. Therefore, Defra are inviting businesses in the food sector with more than 50 employees to establish Asymptomatic Testing Sites (ATs) in workplaces, which will enable employees and contractors to access lateral flow technology to test asymptomatic workers on a regular basis.

The government will provide support to do this, including:

- a limited period (currently up to 31 March 2021) of free Lateral Flow Devices (LFD's) shipped to one location
- a clinically approved protocol (Standard Operating Procedures)
- a Guidebook to describe how to set up and run a safe and effective testing site
- on-demand training for the operatives that will process tests & run the site
- a GDPR-compliant digital solution to report results to Public Health England

Government is developing options for smaller businesses, and for those with mobile workers working away from a fixed location, but in the meantime, Defra encourages businesses with fewer than 50 employees to contact their local authority in the first instance to explore the possibility of using the growing number of community testing facilities.

THE TESTING PROCESS

Tests take place in the workplace and are managed by your own staff who receive training through NHS Test and Trace. The process is:

1. **Register and Swab** – workers complete a self-administered throat and nasal swab test
2. **Process** – prepare and load ('dropping') the sample onto the cartridge, conduct proper extraction and wait 20-30 minutes
3. **Analyse** – analyse result against manufacturer instructions for use and interpret result as negative, positive or invalid
4. **Log result** – **negative result** logged against test ID by scanning the barcode, **positive result** – self isolate according to national guidelines, **invalid result** – retest.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS

Action	Employer	NHS Test & Trace
Set up test site and train staff	Identify, construct and set up test site Recruit Test Operatives (the workers who will conduct the testing process) Set up booking process/schedule for workers	Guidebook with full spatial requirements (site visit for novel settings) Supply 'booths in a box' for employers to purchase if required Online training and assessment for your test Operatives
Order test kits and prepare for testing	Source PPE, cleaning materials and other consumables	Provide and fund test kits
Worker engagement	Co-brand and adapt communications materials, engage workers and provide test appointments process	Standard communications pack for workers and media lines, videos, posters and FAQ's
Conduct testing	Worker self-registers online on their or your device Move workers through the site for supervised self-swab	Subject registration portal
Test sample analysis	Collected samples are processed and analysed on site. Operative submits results on Results Logging Service	Approved clinical protocol (SOP) Web-based Results Logging service
Result notification and follow up	Workers notified via text or email entered during self-registration	Provide managed device to scan and record results Subject notification through Test and Trace

NEXT STEPS

Register your interest with [P&P Sector Testing Queries](#) including “Register interest for National Worker Programme” in the subject line and including the following information in the email body:

- Name of organisation
- Email for man point of contact
- Industry sector
- Company registration number
- Number of workers (eg 50 – 250, >250)

This offer currently covers locations in England only, since conversations in the devolved administrations are ongoing. Please flag if your business includes locations in Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland.

Lee Sheppard, Director of Corporate Affairs and Policy at Apetito said:

Apetito and its sister company Wiltshire Farm Foods has a critical role in providing food during the COVID crisis. We serve some of the most vulnerable and at risk in hospitals, care homes, nurseries and schools and at home through Meals on Wheels and Wiltshire Farm Foods. During COVID, our services are more important than ever before, as many of our vulnerable customers may be solely reliant upon us for their meal provision.

Ensuring our front-line services are able to continue to operate is therefore crucial. Working with the government to rapidly implement a mass testing programme across our manufacturing and distribution sites has built resilience into our business – as well as reassuring our staff and customers that we were doing everything possible to support their safety whilst at work.

Gerald Mason, Senior Vice President of Tate & Lyle Sugars, said:

Mass testing has really helped us get one step ahead of the virus by identifying colleagues who were infectious but showed no symptoms. This has been especially welcome over the last few weeks at our East London factories as the levels of virus in the local area have been extremely high. Our colleagues have welcomed it as it means they are much safer in our workplace, and our factories are better placed to continue to feed the nation.

Primula Managing Director, Paul Lewney, said:

I am delighted that Primula has been chosen as a pilot site for lateral flow testing. Our colleagues have worked tirelessly and we really appreciate their commitment throughout the pandemic to ensure we can continue to play our part in helping to feed the nation. By implementing this mass testing programme, they are able to continue their work in the knowledge that they are keeping both themselves and their families safe. It is vital that we do everything we can to understand more about the virus and help control the spread of COVID-19 and it is an honour that Primula can play a role in that.

Kirsty Wilkins, HR and Performance Director at Moy Park, said:

We are proud to be playing our part to help tackle the spread of coronavirus by participating in the Department of Health and Social Care’s (DHSC) rapid testing programme.

Safety is a condition at Moy Park and we continue to maintain the highest level of vigilance to stop the virus coming into our facilities and help prevent its transmission. Participation in the scheme runs in tandem with the rigorous safety protocols we have in place such as thermal temperature scanning, enhanced cleaning and hygiene regimes, Perspex screens, additional PPE and social distancing measures.

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