

A TESTING SERVICE FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANTS AND STAFF MEMBERS WORKING IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE IN ENGLAND

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

RAPID LATERAL FLOW TESTS

April 2021



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Summary: Testing for personal assistants or anyone in adult social care not receiving regular testing

What is the service?

- Twice weekly rapid lateral flow testing (LFTs) for personal assistants or anyone working in adult social care who are not receiving regular testing
- Personal assistants or anyone working in adult social care who are not receiving regular testing should order a box of 7 LFT tests every 21 days for themselves or an employer can order test kits on their behalf
- 7 tests are delivered for each personal assistant or anyone working in adult social care who are not receiving regular testing to their selected delivery address for a 21 day testing cycle.
- Twice weekly a personal assistant or anyone working in adult social care who are not receiving regular testing should take a test and register the result online.
- Personal assistants or anyone working in adult social care who are not receiving regular testing will receive their results within 30 minutes of conducting the test.

Why is testing important?

- Identifies personal assistants or anyone working in adult social care who are not receiving regular testing who currently have Covid-19 so they are able to self-isolate if their result is positive
- Protects those receiving care from infection passed to them by personal assistants who are confirmed positive
- Prevents and controls the spread of the virus by identifying asymptomatic cases

Difference between rapid LFT and PCR kits

PCR test kits

- Completed, registered and posted once per week
- Regular test kits that are sent to a lab to process
- Results returned to you within 2-3 days after registering and returning
- PCR tests must be registered at <u>https://gov.uk/register-organisation-tests</u> in order to receive a result
- Very high sensitivity rate & can detect the virus in individuals who are not infectious. A PCR can also be tested to identify which variant of the virus you have.

NOTE:

Personal Assistants should **NOT** continue to test with a weekly PCR test. PCR tests should only be used in the case of a positive rapid LFT result or if the individual develops symptoms.

Rapid lateral flow test kits

- Completed and registered twice per week
- Rapid results provided within 30 minutes
- Test samples do not need to be sent to a lab to be processed
- All lateral flow test results must be registered at https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result
- High sensitivity for infectious individuals; lower sensitivity than PCR, but faster and more frequent – helping us identify the most infectious cases quickly

How am I involved?



A "Personal assistant" or anyone in adult social care not receiving regular testing

For testing purposes, a 'Personal Assistant' is directly employed by an individual (or self-employed) to provide care and support to enable them to live as independently as possible. This care could include support in the home, or to go out into the community. Additionally, anyone working in adult social care who is not currently part of regular testing regime should access testing through this route.

Your key responsibilities are to:

- 1. Attend a webinar to understand the process
- 2. Order LFT kits for yourself every 21 days
- 3. Conduct 2 LFT each week, 3-4 days apart and read your results after 30 minutes.
- 4. Register your test result as soon as you have read it. You must register the result each time.
- 5. If your LFT result is positive: conduct a confirmatory PCR test immediately, isolate until you receive a result, and notify your employer. You can order a PCR test from https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- 6. If your PCR result is positive: continue to isolate, notify your employer and provide contacts to NHS Test and Trace. After testing positive, do not take an LFT or PCR test again for 90 days unless you become symptomatic.
- 7. If your PCR result is negative, you no longer need to isolate and can continue twice weekly testing
- 8. Dispose of your LFT, once you have received your result, in a general waste bin.
- 9. Regardless of your result, continue to follow all IPC measures (such as wearing PPE, hand washing and social distancing), even if you or the people you care for have had the vaccine



How the service works

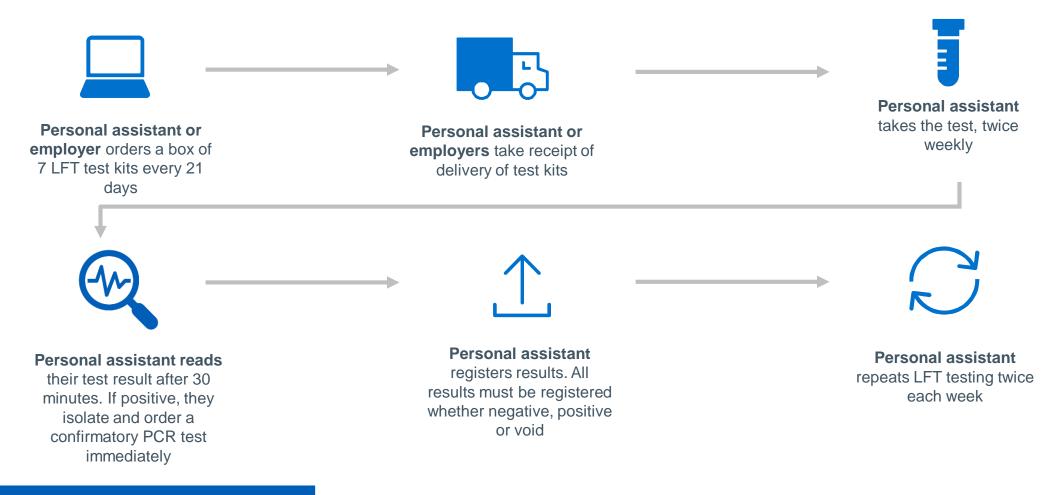
Personal Assistant testing: end to end process







Summary: Testing for personal assistants anyone in adult social care not receiving regular testing



If you have any queries with any of the steps please call the national coronavirus contact centre on 119





Ordering test kits





Ordering test kits

- Personal assistants or the individual employer are responsible for ordering test kits using the link <u>Order</u> <u>coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK</u> (www.gov.uk)
- Personal assistants or the individual employer must decide the address their test kits are delivered to. You may want to use a different address if you're unlikely to be home when the delivery arrives (within 48 hours)
- Personal assistants or the individual employer must order one box of 7 LFT test kits.
- Once you have placed an order, you will receive a confirmatory email from the following address:
 organisation.coronavirus.testing@notifications.service.gov.uk
- If you have any queries with any of the steps, please call the national coronavirus contact centre on 119

Order coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests

Use this service to order free packs of rapid lateral flow tests to be sent to your home in England.

A pack of tests contains 7 tests. You can order one pack per household each day.

Who this service is for

You can only use this service if:

- you do not have <u>coronavirus symptoms</u>
- you live in England
- vou're 18 or older
- vou have not been told to self-isolate
- you cannot get tests from your work, school, college or university (ask them for rapid lateral flow tests)



Do not use a rapid lateral flow test if you have coronavirus symptoms. Get a PCR test and self-isolate.

If you're not sure, you can find out which coronavirus test you should get.

Ordering for someone else

If you're ordering for another household, for example a relative in your bubble, you should:

- do it separately from your household order
- use their contact details

Order rapid lateral flow tests



Personal assistant test kit ordering – process walkthrough





Please refer to slide 24 for initial registration instructions / links

STEP 1: Go to Order coronavirus
(COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Order coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests

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Do not use a rapid lateral flow test if you have coronavirus symptoms. Get a PCR test and self-isolate.

If you're not sure, you can find out which coronavirus test you should get.

Ordering for someone else

If you're ordering for another household, for example a relative in your bubble, you should:

- do it separately from your household order
- · use their contact details

Order rapid lateral flow tests

Start now >

STEP 2: Select either 'Yes, at least one of these symptoms or 'No, none of these symptoms'.

GOV.UK Get a coronavirus test ALPHA This is a new service - your feedback will help us to improve it. < Back Do you have coronavirus symptoms? The main symptoms of coronavirus are: a high temperature · new, continuous cough • loss or change to your sense of smell or taste Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. Yes, at least one of these symptoms No, none of these symptoms Continue

STEP 3: Select where you live in the UK

∰ GOV.UK	Get a coronavirus test
ALPHA This is a new service – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.	
< Back	

Where in the UK do you live?

\bigcirc	England
\bigcirc	Scotland
\bigcirc	Northern Ireland
\bigcirc	Wales
Con	tinue

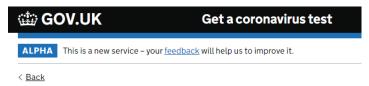
Personal assistant test kit ordering process walkthrough





Please refer to slide 24 for initial registration instructions / links

STEP 4: Select 'Sign in or create an account'. You will only have to do this once.



Would you like to sign in or create an account to save

your details?	
Sign in or create an account Creating an account only takes 2 minutes and you save 5 minutes every time you need to order more test kits.	
Continue without an account Your details will not be saved for future tests and all information will have to be re-entered.	l
Continue	

STEP 5: Enter your email address

NHS login				
Enter your email address				
Email address				
Continue				
What is NHS login?				
You can use our NHS login to access health websites and apps that have the NHS login button. If you do not have an NHS login, enter your email address to set one up.				
Coronavirus (COVID-19)				
For health information and advice, read <u>NHS guidance about coronavirus.</u>				

STEP 6: Create a password of your choice

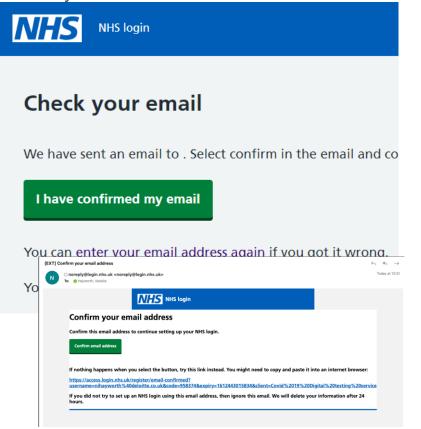
NHS login
≺ Back to: Enter your email
Create a password
Create a password
Your password must have:
8 characters or more
1 capital letter or more
Confirm password
Agree to our terms of use We will collect and save your information securely. your consent.
By continuing you confirm that you agree to our pr
Continue

Personal assistant test kit ordering – process walkthrough





STEP 7: In a new browser window, navigate to your email and open the email from no reply@login.nhs.uk and select 'confirm'. Now select 'I have confirmed my email'



STEP 8: Enter the Personal Assistants mobile number



STEP 9: Select 'I agree'. To create your account, you will need to agree to share your NHS login information (your email address and mobile number) with Gov.uk.

NHS login
Agree to share your NHS login information
To continue, you need to agree to share your NHS login information with 'COVID 19 Digital testing service'.
'COVID 19 Digital testing service' will use your: • Email address
Mobile number
Read 'COVID 19 Digital testing service' terms of use and privacy policy to check how your information will be used.
l agree

Personal assistant test kit ordering – process walkthrough





STEP 10: Select 'Order test kits'

∰ GOV.UK	Get a coronavirus test
ALPHA This is a new service – you	ur <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.

Welcome to your Test and Trace account

Order test kits

Order 1 pack of 7 rapid lateral flow home test kits to be delivered to you

Change your NHS login details

Update the email address, mobile number and password you use to log in

STEP 11: Enter the Personal Assistants first and last name

∰ GOV.UK		Get a corona	
ALPHA	This is a new service – you	ır <u>feedback</u> will help us to improv	
< Back			

What is your name?

First name		
Last name		

Continue

STEP 12: Select either 'Yes, I have access to an email address' and enter your email address or select 'No, I do not have access to an email address' and call 119 to order test kits.

∰ GOV.UK	Get a coronavirus test	
ALPHA This is a new service – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.		
< <u>Back</u>		

Do you have access to an email address?

If you do not have an email address, you can use email address.	GOV.UK Get a coronavirus test
You need to access this email address later on t	ALPHA This is a new service – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it. < Back
Yes, I have access to an email address Email address	Sorry, you need email access to order online
No, I do not have access to an email add	At the moment, you need access to an email address to order online.
Continue	It's OK to use someone else's.
	Go back and enter an email address
	Do not have email access?
	Call the contact centre to order tests.
	If you're in England. there are other ways to get tests. For example, collect them from a local collection point or pharmacy.
	Contact centre
	Call 119 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland Free from mobiles and landlines
	Call 0300 303 2713 in Scotland Charged at your standard network rate

Personal assistant test kit ordering process walkthrough





STEP 13: Select either 'Yes, I have a mobile number' and enter your number or select 'No, I do not have a mobile phone number'.

∰ GOV.UK		Get a coronavirus test	
ALPHA This is a new service		your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.	
< <u>Back</u>			

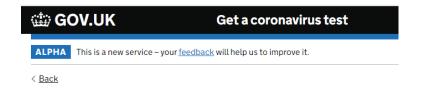
Do you have a mobile number?

We ne	eed this in case we need to contact you about your order.
\odot	Yes, I have a mobile phone number
	Mobile number
	Confirm mobile phone number
\bigcirc	No, I do not have a mobile phone number
0	

STEP 14: Enter the Personal Assistants date of birth

∂ GOV.UK	Get a coronavirus test
.PHA This is a new service – your <u>feedbag</u>	ack will help us to improve it.
ack	
Vhat is your da	ate of birth?
example, 31 3 1980	
y Month Year	
ontinue	

STEP 15: Check your answers and if correct select 'Save and continue'



Check your answers

<u>Change</u>
<u>Change</u>
<u>Change</u>
<u>Change</u>
<u>Change</u>

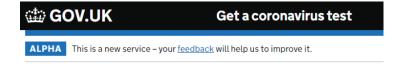


Personal assistant test kit ordering – process walkthrough





STEP 16: Select 'Continue'



We need to get your delivery details

This is so that we can send the test kits to your home.

Continue

STEP 17: Enter the postcode of your address and select 'Find address'

∰ GOV.UK	Get a coronavirus test
ALPHA This is a new service – ye	our <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.
< Back	
What is you	r home address?
Postcode	
Find address	

STEP 18: Select either 'Yes, my delivery address is the same as my home address' or 'No, my delivery address is different to my home address'

∰ GOV.UK		Get a coronavirus test
ALPHA	This is a new service – your <u>feedbac</u>	<u>k</u> will help us to improve it.
< Back		

Is your delivery address the same as your home address?

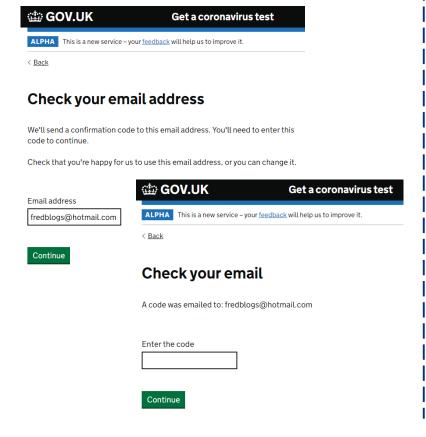
Your delivery address is where your home test kit should be sent. $\\$
Yes, my delivery address is the same as my home address
No, my delivery address is different to my home address
Continue

Personal assistant test kit ordering – process walkthrough





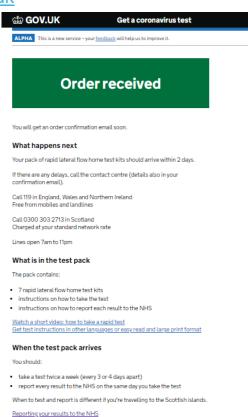
STEP 19: Confirm your email address is correct and select 'Continue'. Enter the code that was sent to your email and select 'Continue'



STEP 20: Check your answers and if correct click 'Yes, I confirm that all the above apply' and select 'Place order'

	Get a corona	virus test
ALPHA This is a	new service – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improv	e it.
(Back		
Order	summary	
Email address	fredblogs@hotmail.com	<u>Change</u>
Home address		Change
Delivery address		Change
Diselaim	~	
•	er a pack of 7 rapid lateral flow home test	kits, I confirm
that: The information I agree with the		
By ordering that: The information I agree with the I am happy to b I am 18 or over	a pack of 7 rapid lateral flow home test I've provided is up to date and correct Terms and conditions and Privacy policy	

STEP 21: You will receive a confirmatory email once your order has been successfully placed from <u>organisation.coronavirus.testing@notifications.service.gov.uk</u>



Testing and reporting your result if you're travelling to the Scottish Islands





Delivery and Preparation

Delivery and Preparation





Delivery of tests kits

Test kits are typically delivered within 48 hours

Prepare for testing by looking at guidance

Before testing be sure to:

- Read guidance for personal assistants
- Read guidance included with your test kit
- Watch the instructional video for self swabbing

How to do a COVID-19 Self Test (rapid antigen test) - YouTube

If a personal assistant becomes symptomatic, they should selfisolate immediately and order a confirmatory PCR kit from https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test



Instructional video for self swabbing





Using the test kits





Taking the test

- 1 Prepare your test area and check your test kit contents
- 2) Set up your test
- Take your swab sample
- 4 Process the swab sample
- 5 Read your result
- 6 Report your result
- 7) Safely dispose of your test kit

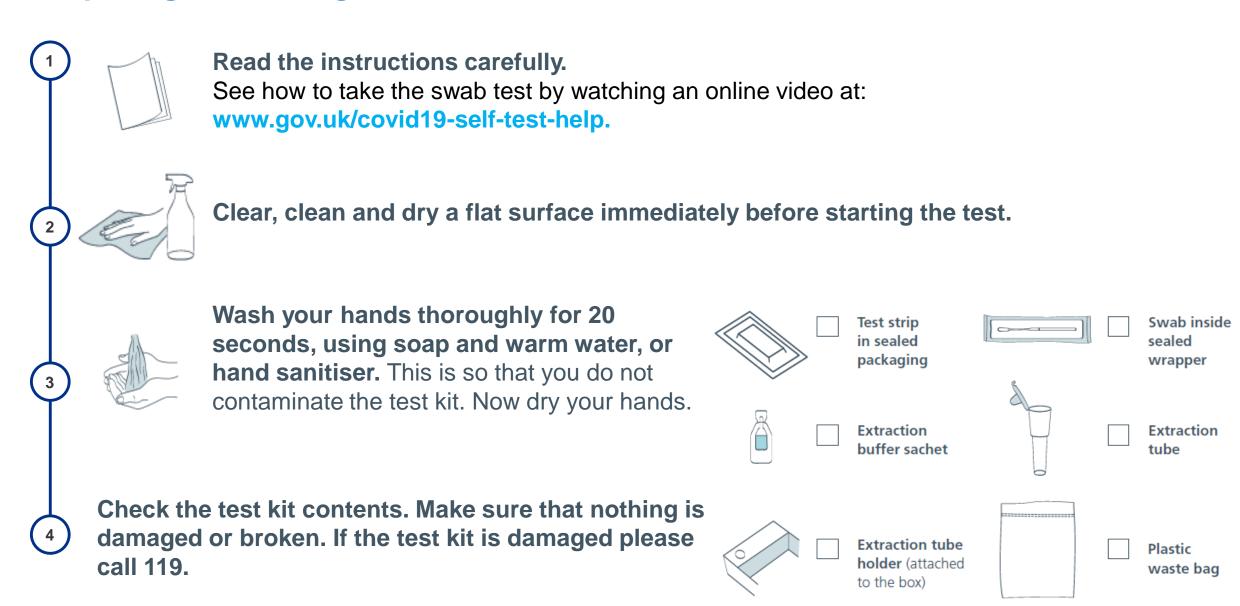


Staff should use the step-by-step instructions (provided to you after this webinar) to guide self-testing.





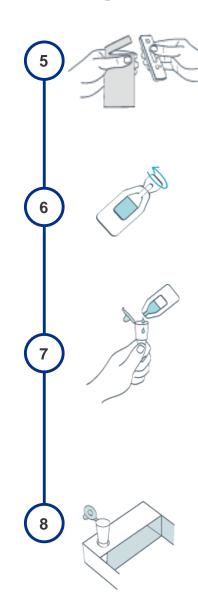
Preparing the testing area







Set up the test



Take the test strip out of the sealed packaging and place it onto the cleaned flat surface. Once opened, start the test within 30 minutes.

Carefully twist or snap open the sachet.

Open it away from your face and be careful not to spill any of the liquid

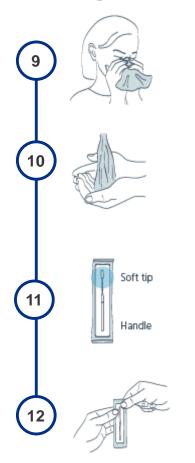
Open the extraction tube and gently squeeze all of the liquid from the buffer sachet into the tube. Avoid touching the sachet against the tube. Place extraction buffer sachet in the plastic waste bag provided.

Place the filled tube in the extraction tube holder (attached inside the box) to avoid spilling the liquid.





Set up the test



Gently blow your nose into a tissue and throw the tissue away in a closed bin.

Wash your hands thoroughly again for 20 seconds using soap and warm water (or use sanitiser).

Find the swab in the sealed wrapper. Identify the soft, fabric tip of the swab.

Peel open the swab packaging only when you are ready to use and gently take out the swab. You'll use this for both throat and nose.



Never touch the soft, fabric tip of the swab with your hands.





Take the swab sample



Do not touch the tongue, teeth, cheeks, gums, or any other surfaces with the fabric tip of the swab. If it touches anything else, it may spoil your sample.

Never touch the fabric strip with your hands.

Swabbing may feel uncomfortable, do not insert swab any deeper if there is strong resistance or pain.





Holding the swab between your fingers, open your mouth wide and rub the fabric tip of the swab over both tonsils (or where they would have been). Do this with firm contact 4 times on each side (use a torch or a mirror to help you do this).

Carefully remove the swab from the back of your throat.





Put the same swab gently into 1 nostril until you feel a slight resistance (about 2.5cm up your nose).

Roll the swab firmly around the inside of the nostril, making 10 complete circles.



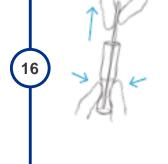


Process the swab sample



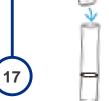
Pick up the extraction tube and place the fabric tip of the swab into the extraction tube so it is in the liquid.

Press the tip against the edge of the extraction tube with force, while rotating it around the extraction tube for 15 seconds. This is to transfer your sample into the liquid.



Pinch the extraction tube against the swab as you remove it. Make sure you remove all liquid from the soft tip of the swab.

Place the swab in the plastic waste bag provided.



Press the cap tightly on to the extraction tube to avoid any leaks.





Process the swab sample



Gently squeeze the extraction tube to place 2 drops of the liquid onto the specimen well (S) on the test strip. Make sure that you are dropping liquid and not an air bubble.

Put the extraction tube in the plastic waste bag along with the swab.



Check the time and set a timer if you have one. Wait exactly 30 minutes before you read your result.

Waiting the full 30-minute development time before you read your result is very important. A positive result can appear at any time after 20 minutes, however you must wait for the full 30 minutes to record a negative result as the test line (T) may take this long to appear. If a positive signal appears after 30 minutes, it should not be reported as positive. Find out how to read and report your result on the next page.



Make sure you place the test strip on a flat and level surface. Do not move the strip during the test.



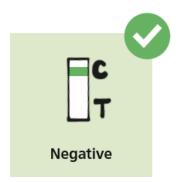


Reading your result

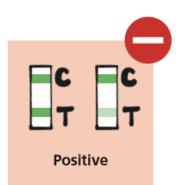
Checking your result, and what happens when you have your result



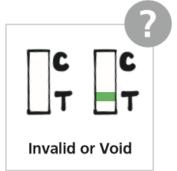




- Anyone who receive a negative result and remain without symptoms can continue working
- All workers must continue following all IPC measures such as wearing PPE, washing your hands and socially distancing where possible



- If anyone tests positive, they will need to order a confirmatory PCR test and immediately self-isolate until they receive their PCR result
- Confirmatory PCRs can be ordered at https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- If the confirmatory PCR comes back as negative, that person can come back to work as long as they do not have symptoms.
- If the confirmatory PCR comes back as positive, their household and contacts will need to isolate in line with current guidance



Personal Assistants should immediately conduct another rapid LFT

Additional guidance following a positive confirmatory PCR test result







Following a confirmed (PCR) positive test, Personal Assistants should:

- Discontinue regular rapid LFT testing for 90 days
- Discontinue any regular PCR testing for 90 days

If a Personal Assistant develops new COVID-19 symptoms within the 90 day window, they should apply for a COVID-19 PCR test through regular testing channels:

https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test





1 Registering test kits



Find out how we use your data



All test results must be registered online

To support NHS Test and Trace with result tracking, all test results must be registered online whether they are positive, negative or void.

- Results must be reported on: https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result
- This registration form is separate from the PCR registration portal
- Personal Assistants need to use this service every time they complete a self-test

Personal Assistants or anyone without digital access

If you cannot complete the online form, they can either:

- Call 119 and select option 1
- Or, have you or someone else register on their behalf (provided you have written consent to do so and can obtain personal details required to complete the form)

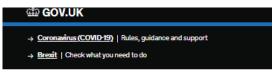
Report a COVID-19 self-test result report your result to the NHS after using a COVID-19 self-test kit (also called a lateral flow test kit) find out what your result means and get the latest advice on what to do · every time you use a self-test kit · as soon as possible after you get the result Start now > Before you start To use this service, you need: the barcode on the test strip or the ID number printed under it (the test strip is the part of the kit that shows your result) a mobile phone Report by phone Use the phone number in your self-test kit's instructions How reporting self-test results helps Self-testing and reporting results helps to: reduce infection rates in your community · protect people at higher risk of infection prevent and reduce the spread of the virus · find out if you're infectious (you may not have symptoms) Find out more about self-testing [link to DHSC guide]. You and your household may need to self-isolate depending on your result. Get advice about how to self-isolate How we use your data





Please refer to slide 24 for initial registration instructions / links

STEP 1: Go to https://gov.uk/register-home-test and select 'Start now'



Home > Coronavirus (COVID-19) > Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result

Use this service to report your result to the NHS after using a rapid lateral flow test kit to check if you're infectious with coronavirus (COVID-19).

A rapid lateral flow test is a coronavirus test you do yourself. It shows you the result on a handheld device that comes with the test.

Report the result

- · every time you use a rapid lateral flow test kit
- · as soon as possible after you get the result

You cannot report a result after more than 24 hours.

You can only report one result at a time.

Start now >

Before you start

To use this service, you need:

- the barcode on the test strip or the ID number printed under it (the test strip is the part of the kit that shows your result)
- · a mobile phone number so we can text you to confirm we've got your result

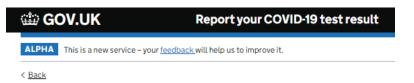
Report by phone

You can also report your test result by calling the phone number in your test kit's instructions.

STEP 2: Select either 'Myself' or 'Someone else' depending on who you are reporting a result for.



STEP 3: Select whether you would like to create an account or continue without an account. Once you have created an account, if will remember your personal details and save time when it comes to each test result.



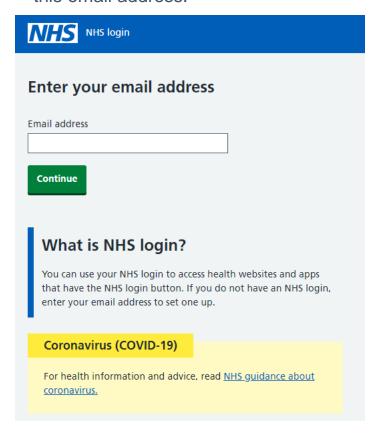
Would you like to sign in or create an account to save your details?

\bigcirc	Sign in or create an account
	We'll save your details each time you report a test result. Creating an account only takes 2 minutes and you'll save 5 minutes when reporting each test result.
\bigcirc	Continue without an account
	Your details won't be saved for future tests and all information will have to be re-entered.
Con	tinue

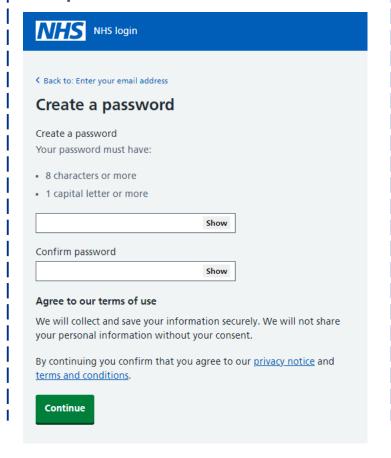




STEP 4: Enter your email address. This email will be used to set up your account, and your personal details will be linked to this email address.



STEP 5: Create a password for your account. It must have at least 8 characters and have 1 or more capital letters.



STEP 6: Navigate to your email inbox and open the email from noreply@login.nhs.uk and select confirm.







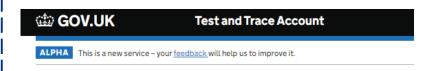
STEP 7: Enter your mobile number. A security code will be sent to this number. Input the 6 digit security code here

NHS log	yin	
Enter your mobile number We will send you a 6 digit security code		
UK Mobile number		
I have an international mobile number		
Continue	Check your mobile phone	
	Enter the 6 digit security code we've sent to +447941697305. Security code The code is 6 numbers Continue	
	If you do not get a code, you can <u>enter your mobile number to try</u> <u>again</u> .	

STEP 8: To create your account, you will need to agree to share your NHS login information with Gov.uk



STEP 9: Select 'Report a COVID-19 test result'



Welcome to your Test and Trace account

Report a COVID-19 test result

Use this service to report your result to the NHS.

Update the email address, mobile use to log in





STEP 10: Select 'None of the above'.

∰ GOV.UK	Report your COVID-19 test result
ALPHA This is a new service	e – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.
< <u>Back</u>	
Who was t	the test for?
•	or bubble of someone who goes to (or works at) a schools" unless one of the other options apply
A social care service	e
A school (including	nursery), college or other education provider
The NHS as part of Northern Ireland on	a staff testing programme (England, Wales and nly)
An employer or orga programme	anisation (not listed above) as part of their testing
None of the above	
Continue	

STEP 11: Select where you live in the UK

∰ GOV.UK	Report your COVID-19 test result
ALPHA This is a new service – your	feedback will help us to improve it.
< <u>Back</u>	
Where in the	UK do you live?
If you're reporting a result for som	neone else, answer for them.
England	
Scotland	
Northern Ireland	
Wales	

STEP 12: Select the date the test was taken either 'Today' or 'Yesterday'.

∰ GOV.UK	Report your COVID-19 test result
ALPHA This is a new service – y	our <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.
/ Park	

When was the test taken?

Report a result as soon as possible on the day the test is taken (and no later than 24 hours).
Select a date
Today, 31 March 2021
Yesterday, 30 March 2021
Continue

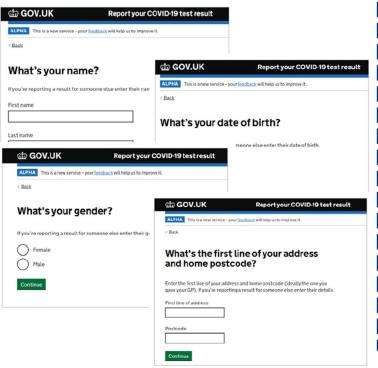




STEP 13: Enter and re-enter the test kit ID number. The ID number can be found via the QR code on the lateral flow device



STEP 14: Enter the Personal Assistants personal details. If you have created an account, this information will be saved for future use and you will not need to enter these details again for future registrations.



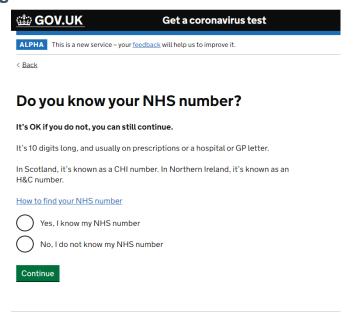
STEP 15: Enter the Personal Assistants email address and mobile number. If you have created an account, this information will be saved for future use and you will not need to enter these details again for future registrations

< Back	
Do you have an email	address?
If you're reporting a result for someone els	se use their email.
Contact details are used for service reliconfirm a result has been reported). If a use them for contact tracing.	What's your mobile number?
Yes, I have an email address Email address	If you're reporting a result for someone else use their mobile.
No. I don't have an email addres	Contact details are used for service related messages (for example, to confirm a result has been reported). If a result is positive, the NHS may a use them for <u>contact tracing</u> .
Continue	▶ <u>Don't have a mobile number?</u>
	Mobile phone number
	Confirm mobile phone number





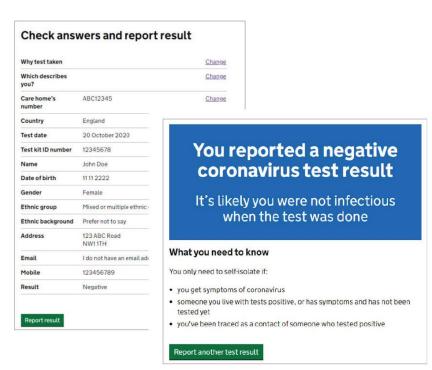
STEP 16: If applicable, select 'Yes, I know my NHS number' and enter it. Otherwise, select 'No, I do not know my NHS number'. If you have created an account, this information will be saved for future use and you will not need to enter these details again for future registrations.



STEP 17: Select the result of the test, and tap 'Continue'.



STEP 18: Check the answers you have provided and change them if needed. Click "Report Result" when you confirm all your responses are correct. The results page will appear. You will receive your result by SMS or e-mail.







Twice-weekly retesting





Twice weekly LFT retesting

After you have completed your first round of testing, continue to test using LFTs twice weekly on the same days each week.

If you have tested positive, you should not re-test for 90 days unless you become symptomatic.

Repeat testing process every 7 days Day one Conduct test, receive result and register test Conduct test, receive result and register test

If you receive a positive test result: isolate, order a confirmatory PCR test and inform your employer



Support available for personal assistants



Operational support available for personal assistants

If a personal assistant tests positive or is instructed to isolate, their individual employer or somebody on their behalf should try to organise different arrangements. This is why contingency plans for the individual employers are so important (see the <u>developing a contingency</u> <u>plan</u> section for further details). For example, it may be that another personal assistant is willing and able to take on further work to provide the individual with the care and support they need.

In cases where arrangements cannot be put in place to provide the individual employers with the care and support they need, the personal assistant or somebody on their behalf should contact the local authority or CCG immediately. They will support the individual employer in developing a temporary plan to ensure individuals' needs are met, while you are self-isolating.

PAs are entitled to claim free PPE from their local authority or local resilience forum. Guidance is available here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-local-contacts-for-care-providers



Financial support available for personal assistants

If a personal assistant needs to self-isolate, they may be entitled to a £500 payment via their local authority whether they are employed or self-employed. The eligibility criteria and guidance is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme

Directly employed personal assistants may also be entitled to SSP if they are self-isolating or are unwell. SSP is paid from the date they self-isolate. You will need to speak to your individual employer. Guidance is available here: https://www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay

Local authorities, at their discretion, may also meet the costs of self-isolation through the Infection Control Fund (ICF) and Testing Fund. If a PA is receiving their full wage from their employer through the Infection Control Fund though, they will not be eligible for the NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This link has your local authority contact details for social care support: https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/other-services/Local-Authority-Adult-Social-Care/LocationSearch/1918



Where to go for more support?



Online: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-personal-assistants



Instructional videos: Watch instructional videos for how to conduct a test at: How to do a COVID-19 Self Test (rapid antigen test) - YouTube



Coronavirus Testing Contact Centre: please call **119** *Lines are open from 7am –11pm daily*



Your chance to provide feedback!

Step 1: Join a presentation - Mentimeter



Step 2: Enter the code - 4168 9041



Please enter the code

12 34 56

Submit

The code is found on the screen in front of you



Questions and Answers