

Dear Colleague,

I am sure that you saw the announcement yesterday by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care that all social care staff who have coronavirus-like symptoms will be able to be tested to see if they currently have the virus.

You may also have seen that a new drive through testing centre is being launched at the Showground in Peterborough today.

The Government has issued several guidance documents about the testing and I set out below what I believe to be the relevant information from the guidance documents and I will update you if and when more information becomes available.

**All essential workers in England and members of their households who are showing symptoms of coronavirus will now be able to get tested the Government has announced.**

A new campaign will help essential workers in England - including NHS and **care staff**, teachers, hospital cleaners, public servants, the emergency services, supermarket staff, delivery drivers, and other critical infrastructure staff - to access testing.

Booking the test has been made simpler via a new online system. From today, employers can register and refer self-isolating staff, and from tomorrow **employees will be able to book a test directly for themselves** or members of their household who are experiencing symptoms – a high temperature or new continuous cough. This will speed up the process of getting an appointment and take the burden off employers, helping reach everyone who has symptoms at the earliest opportunity.

**Arrange a test**

Essential workers who are self-isolating can be referred by their employer for a coronavirus test. From 24 April, they will be able to book a test directly at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus). Essential workers will be able to select either a regional test site drive-through appointment or a home test kit.

Home test kit availability will initially be limited but more will become available. There is good availability of regional test sites, so please select this option if you can. Any employer that has queries should contact the Department of Health and Social Care at [opshub@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:opshub@dhsc.gov.uk).

**Essential workers can apply for a test here:**

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>

Further information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#arrange-a-test>

Full guidance about testing here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-testing-extended-to-all-essential-workers-in-england-who-have-symptoms?utm\\_source=31ee2a16-bc33-4a25-8cde-df2c08b9f16e&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-testing-extended-to-all-essential-workers-in-england-who-have-symptoms?utm_source=31ee2a16-bc33-4a25-8cde-df2c08b9f16e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

Best wishes.

Sheila