

COVID 19 Rapid Testing for those without symptoms
Briefing for parents and carers

Information correct as of 11th March 2021

The information below has been provided by B&NES Public Health Team. It tells you about testing your child and household when you are 'asymptomatic' which means you DO NOT have any symptoms of Covid -19

Key messages

- 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 don't have any symptoms so it is important we find as many of these cases as possible to stop the spread
- There are two types of tests that can be used to see if you are positive.
 - A Lateral Flow Test (sometimes called a rapid test) which is used for people who do not have symptoms of COVID 19 and gives a result in 30 minutes.
 - A PCR test (Polymerase Chain Reaction) which needs to be sent to the lab for analysis gives results usually within 48hrs
- School staff are taking Lateral Flow Tests twice a week to make sure they keep your child and everyone in the school safe
- If your child is secondary school aged, they will have been offered 3 lateral flow tests in school and will then be given kits to bring home and use twice a week
- If you are an adult in a household (childcare or support bubble) with a school / college age child, you can collect self-test kits so that you can also check yourself at home
- Other workers and volunteers in B&NES can have regular tests by visiting a Local Rapid Covid-19 site. This is a different centre to the one for people with symptoms
- If you or child do test positive for Covid-19 then it is important you follow the advice you are given
- Support is available locally if you do need to self-isolate

Around one in three people with COVID-19 don't have symptoms, so rapid COVID 19 tests or lateral flow tests (LFT) help us find cases of the virus, to break chains of transmission, so people can self-isolate and reduce the spread of the virus in B&NES.

Collection of home self-test kits in B&NES

Households of school/college-aged children, their childcare and support bubble can collect Rapid COVID 19 tests from the local PCR testing sites at the 1st Keynsham Scouts HQ in Ashton Way, Keynsham and Carpenter House, Broad Quay, Bath by following this link <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>. Please check opening times of each test site before visiting by clicking on the venue link in the map.

Secondary and primary schools will be providing Rapid Covid-19 tests for staff. Secondary schools will also provide tests for students and you can find more information about this [here](#).

If you or your child test positive using a rapid home self-test kit

- You should report the result of a home test as soon as possible. [Report a rapid lateral flow test result on GOV.UK](#)
- **you need to get a confirmatory PCR test** via the link below or call 119 to book a test. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- Continue to self-isolate until you get the results of the PCR test. Follow the advice given when you get the result.
- A negative confirmatory PCR test result means the person and their household are released from the requirement to self-isolate.

If you or your child test positive after having a rapid lateral flow test at a test site

- **A confirmatory PCR test is NOT required**
- you and anyone you live with must self-isolate immediately.
- The self-isolation period includes the day you had the test and the next 10 full days. [Find out how long to self-isolate](#).

Please note: There is a legal requirement to self-isolate on receipt of a positive LFT result completed at a test site (including at a school).

A subsequent PCR result, if negative, does not over-ride the LFT positive result and you will still need to self-isolate.

Other ways of getting a rapid COVID 19 test

Local authority community test sites

B&NES Council opened its first rapid Covid-19 test site at the Apex Hotel in Bath on Monday 1 March 2021. Anyone who lives or works in B&NES and is an essential worker, volunteer or unable to work from home can book a quick, free and easy lateral flow test. Appointments are available in five-minute slots

and can be booked up to two weeks in advance via www.bathnes.gov.uk/rapidtest.

Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. The test process, including registration on arrival takes around 15 minutes and results are sent by text or email, usually within one hour.

Anyone working out in the community is being encouraged to get tested at least once per week – and preferably twice weekly, 3-5 days apart.

Further sites will open at the Masonic Hall in Keynsham (Monday 8 March) and the Centurion Hotel in Midsomer Norton (Wednesday 10 March). And all sites will be open from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday.

Workplace testing

All employers, both public and private sector, including those with less than 50 employees can now access rapid asymptomatic testing through the governments institutional testing delivery channel. Employers can access information and register an interest here <https://www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests>

Home ordering service

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most. Follow the link below to order.

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

Support to self-isolate

Help is available in B&NES for anyone needing support to self-isolate via the **community wellbeing hub** <https://www.compassioncb.org.uk/wellbeing>

- Call **0300 247 0050** (phone line is open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)
- Email BATHNES.thehub@virginicare.co.uk
- Text [07870 868368](tel:07870868368)

The government has introduced a **Test and Trace Support Payment of £500**, to help people who have lost income due to the need to self-isolate. To find out if you are eligible;

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/apply-test-and-trace-support-payment>

To find out more about lateral flow tests please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

If you have any further questions about asymptomatic testing in B&NES please contact rapid_test@bathnes.gov.uk