

COVID-19 Hertfordshire event testing guidance

May 2021

To ensure that your event can operate safely, the following testing guidance from Hertfordshire Public Health must be followed.

Event attendees and staff should be completing rapid testing twice in the week before the event with the last test being completed within 48 hours before the event. Following the event, twice weekly tests should be completed. We encourage attendees and staff to continue testing on an ongoing basis.

Lateral Flow Tests are easy to use and can give results in 30 minutes.

If you receive a positive lateral flow test result, you and your household should **self-isolate immediately**. You should also arrange a **confirmatory PCR test within 48 hours** by [booking online](#) or via 119.

Testing required

1 week before the event	Test twice weekly with one test within 48 hours of the event
1 week after the event	Test twice weekly
Ongoing after the event	Continue to test twice weekly

If you test negative, you should continue to follow the preventative measures currently recommended for stopping the spread of the virus.

To protect yourself and others, you must remember: **Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air.**

[Click here to get rapid tests](#)

As an event organiser please do the following

Promote testing

Promote rapid testing clearly via ticket sales, your website and on other related communication channels using our *link to be added* [COVID-19 events testing guidance for event attendees](#) and display the COVID-19 testing posters at your event.

Home testing

Home testing is the easiest route for attendees to access tests and these can be obtained via a range of methods including ordering online, collecting from a pharmacy or visiting a testing site. If attendees need support with taking a rapid lateral flow test they can visit one of the Hertfordshire rapid testing sites.

[Click here order coronavirus home rapid lateral flow test kits](#)

[Click here to find out about Hertfordshire rapid testing sites.](#)

Support attendees to do the right thing

Where possible support attendees to do the right thing if they test positive for COVID-19. For example, if event is repeated, consider offering a place to positive cases who can no longer attend the original event.

NHS Track and Trace app

Encourage attendees to use the NHS Track and Trace app to reinforce messages when people arrive at your event. The app has several tools to protect you, including contact tracing, information on local area restrictions and venue check-in

[Click here to create a coronavirus NHS QR code for your event](#)

[The NHS COVID-19 app support website - NHS.UK](#)

Hands, Face, Space, Fresh Air

The campaign urges the public to stick to these rules and remember the key behaviours of washing hands, wearing face coverings, making space and meeting in the fresh air to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
Who can be tested?	Everyone in England without symptoms. Secondary and college students can access tests from schools and colleges.
Why do I need to do this when so many people have already been vaccinated?	<p>The vaccine is offering tremendous hope that an easing of national restrictions may soon be possible –over 30m people have received their first dose of the vaccine and roll out continues at pace. Vaccines will protect us in the longer term, and clinical trial evidence demonstrates that the vaccine reduces clinically severe infection and severe disease, but it’s still too soon to know how the vaccine will impact rates of infection, transmission, or variants of concern. And it will be several months before the vaccine has been offered to all adults.</p> <p>Not all those offered the vaccine will take it up and there are some groups, such as children, for whom the vaccine is not yet authorised. Even when vaccinated, there is still a chance people can contract the virus and pass it on. No vaccine is 100% effective.</p> <p>Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus don’t have symptoms, don’t realise they’re infected, and are therefore unlikely to get tested or self-isolate. This means they can spread the virus around workplaces without knowing it. Regular, rapid testing plays a critical role in safer working, stopping the spread of the virus, and is key to breaking the chains of transmission.</p>
Will people be required to take a test?	No. Rapid testing is voluntary but strongly encouraged as an extremely important way to protect yourself, loved ones, colleagues and your community. Acting like you’ve got the virus and testing twice weekly will help provide peace of mind and enable the return to a more normal way of life. For rapid testing to be effective it will need to become a regular habit, as a negative result only gives a picture of today.
Do these tests work for people without symptoms?	Lateral flow tests are validated technology, it is safe, inexpensive and the results are trusted. Extensive clinical evaluation from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) are specific and sensitive enough to be deployed for mass testing, including for asymptomatic people.
How long does it take to do the test?	It takes less than 15 minutes to administer the test.
How long does it take to get the result?	The test produces a result within 30 minutes.

<p>How will I get my LFD result?</p>	<p>The LFDs take 30 minutes or less and are point of care tests, so don't need to go to a lab to be processed. If you take your test at a testing site your result will be sent to you via SMS and/or e-mail. Results will be communicated at longest within a day of the test. If you take your test at home you will need to follow the instructions in the kit.</p> <p>If your result is positive, you will be told to book a confirmatory test via gov.uk. Within 48 hours. You can also call 119 to book a test.</p>
<p>What happens if someone tests positive?</p>	<p>After a positive LFD result, you, and everyone you live with must self-isolate immediately for 10 days.</p> <p>Only leave home for your follow-up test. You will be asked to self-isolate and confirm this result via a confirmatory test. You should arrange your confirmatory PCR within 48 hours by booking online or via 119. If the PCR test is positive, they must follow the standard self-isolation rules. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test. If you do not take the confirmatory test within 2 days, you and the people you live with will need to self-isolate for the full 10 days.</p>
<p>How do people report tests?</p>	<p>For tests taken on-site results are automatically reported by the site operative. For home tests each test comes with instructions for how the individual needs to report a test result via Gov.uk. If positive, employees will be expected to inform their own employer and dispose safely of the test.</p>
<p>If I test positive, do I need to take a confirmatory test?</p>	<p>Yes. You must book a PCR swab test to confirm your positive LFD result. You must do so within 48 hours. For the fastest result, we suggest you book a test at a test site at gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. You can also book a home test online or call 119 to book a test.</p> <p>Individuals who test negative from their LFD will not need to isolate or take a confirmatory test.</p>
<p>What happens if a PCR confirmatory follow up test to a home positive LFD is negative?</p>	<p>Following a LFD positive test, a confirmatory PCR test must be booked online or via 119 with 48 hours. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test, and you and your close contacts no longer need to self-isolate.</p>
<p>What happens if I test negative?</p>	<p>You should continue to follow the preventative measures currently recommended for stopping the spread of the virus.</p> <p>To protect yourself and others, you must remember: Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Hands –wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water often, and as soon as you get home -use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available. ·Face –wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet. ·Space –stay at least 2 metres away from anyone you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble.

<p>What should someone do if they have coronavirus symptoms?</p>	<p>If you have symptoms of coronavirus –high temperature, continuous cough or loss of / change in taste or smell –please book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119 in England and Wales, or 0300 303 2713 in Scotland and Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>Are lateral flow tests less accurate than PCR tests?</p>	<p>Lateral flow and PCR tests have different characteristics and different uses. PCR tests have higher specificity and sensitivity but require a laboratory to process results and are therefore slower and more expensive. They are therefore well suited to specific use cases, such as those with Covid symptoms. While lateral flow tests have lower sensitivity than PCR, they deliver results far faster and do not require a lab, making them more scalable. As such, they allow us to test far larger numbers of asymptomatic people and get them their test result faster than with PCR technology. This will enable us to capture a large percentage of people who are infected and infectious, but not showing symptoms and unaware of the fact that they are possibly spreading Covid.</p>
<p>How will this help those most at risk?</p>	<p>The universal testing offer will also focus on making testing available to those most at risk and who struggle or can't access our current offers. We want to support testing across groups where prevalence of the virus remains high, vaccine uptake is lower, and there is an increased risk of growth in transmission, increasing health inequalities and potential new variants emerging and spreading.</p>
<p>How can I get more information on the routes available?</p>	<p>All the information is available at: Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in Hertfordshire Hertfordshire County Council www.nhs.uk/get-tested</p>