

Rapid Key Worker Testing March 2021 – Information For Key Workers

[1] Introduction

Around one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and will spread it without realising.

Broadening testing to identify those showing no symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly, and break chains of transmission.

Alongside tests for NHS front-line staff, social care and other critical settings, testing of asymptomatic individuals within the community can help suppress COVID-19 and help put Tier 3 areas on a route out of the toughest restrictions.

With this in mind, we're developing three sites across the city for asymptomatic key workers to be tested. These sites are as follows:

- **Headingley Campus, Leeds Beckett University, LS6 3QS ([Map](#)).**
- **City Campus, Leeds Beckett University, LS1 3HE ([Map](#)).**
- **The Old Fire Station, Gipton, LS9 6NL ([Map](#)).**

The Headingley site is open immediately 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday for key workers drawn from the following cohorts:

- Children's Homes.
- Cleaning.
- Early Years.
- Funeral Directors.
- Hostel Staff.
- Hotels & Venues.
- Markets.
- Passenger Transport.
- Taxis – Amber & Uber.
- Third Sector.
- West Yorkshire Police.

The remaining two sites will open as follows:

- City Campus, Leeds Beckett University, LS1 3HE. ***From Tuesday 9 March – Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.***
- The Old Fire Station, Gipton, LS9 6NL. ***From Tuesday 9 March – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am to 3.30pm; Wednesday 2pm to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 3pm.***

Whilst we've identified the above cohorts, we may add other groups to the testing programme who we believe would benefit from being included as resources allow.

[2] Key Messages

- We're launching this initiative to help drive down transmission rates.
- Increased community testing is a vital additional tool at our disposal to help identify those who are infected and infectious, but unaware that they might be spreading the disease.
- Around one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms (asymptomatic) and will spread it without realising.
- Broadening testing to identify those showing no symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly, and breaking chains of transmission.
- Testing of asymptomatic individuals can help suppress COVID-19 and help put Tier 3 areas on a route out of the toughest restrictions.
- All efforts to find people without symptoms work hand-in-hand with the existing free testing service for those with symptoms. Anyone with one or more of these symptoms – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – should book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

[3] Q&As

How does the process work?

We're developing three sites across the city for asymptomatic key workers to be tested. These sites are as follows:

- **Headingley Campus, Leeds Beckett University, LS6 3QS.**
- **City Campus, Leeds Beckett University, LS1 3HE.**
- **The Old Fire Station, Gipton, LS9 6NL.**

What should I do if I have coronavirus symptoms?

Free testing continues to be available to everyone across Leeds. For the latest details, please visit www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-where-to-go-for-testing.

Please book a test if you have symptoms of coronavirus – high temperature, continuous cough or loss of / change in taste or smell – at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

When does the testing start?

The Headingley site is open immediately 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday. The remaining two sites will open as follows:

- City Campus, Leeds Beckett University, LS1 3HE. ***From Tuesday 9 March – Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.***
- The Old Fire Station, Gipton, LS9 6NL. ***From Tuesday 9 March – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am to 3.30pm; Wednesday 2pm to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 3pm.***

Who can be tested?

Key workers will be drawn from the following cohorts:

- Children's Homes.
- Cleaning.
- Early Years.
- Funeral Directors.
- Hostel Staff.
- Hotels & Venues.
- Markets.
- Passenger Transport.
- Taxis – Amber & Uber.
- Third Sector.
- West Yorkshire Police.

Whilst we've identified the above cohorts, we may add other groups to the testing programme who we believe would benefit from being included.

What type of tests will be used for Community Testing and how do they work?

We'll use Lateral flow antigen tests. This is a new kind of technology that can be used to test a higher proportion of asymptomatic people - better enabling us to identify and isolate more people who are at high likelihood of spreading virus, and break the chains of transmission.

A Lateral Flow Test (LFT) detects the presence or absence of coronavirus from a swab or saliva sample. The sample is mixed with a buffer solution, which releases and breaks up virus fragments. Some of the solution is then dropped on to the lateral flow device. The sample runs along the surface of the devices' absorbent strip, showing at the end a visual positive or negative result dependent on the presence of the virus.

Why should people take part?

We aim to identify people who don't have COVID-19 symptoms but who are infectious and could spread the infection to others unknowingly (asymptomatic). Identifying and supporting infectious people to isolate before they develop symptoms will help reduce spread.

Do I have to take this test?

No. We're hoping that many people will recognise the benefits of getting involved in local testing efforts to reduce the spread of the virus in their communities.

How long does the test take?

It takes less than 15 minutes to administer the test.

How are the tests processed?

Lateral flow devices don't require a laboratory to process the test. Swabbing and processing of these tests must currently be conducted at a dedicated testing site by trained personnel.

How long does it take to get the result?

The test produces a result within an hour.

What will this test tell me?

If you get a positive result, it's likely that you were infectious at the time the test was taken. The antigen test can't detect very low levels of coronavirus in a sample, so if you've only recently been infected, are in the incubation period, or if you've mostly recovered, the test may not give a positive result.

What if I test positive?

If you test positive with the rapid lateral flow test you'll need to self-isolate for 10 days. Eligible individuals who test positive will be entitled to the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment in the same way as a regular swab test through NHS Test and Trace. Please note the Government has laid down eligibility criteria. LCC staff don't qualify for this payment as they've already been paid in full.

What if I test negative?

You'll 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.**

- 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 aren't available.
- Face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you'll contact people you don't normally meet.
- Space – stay at least 2 metres away from anyone you don't live with, or who isn't in your support bubble.

If you subsequently develop symptoms, you should self-isolate and arrange a test through the NHS.