Staff Briefing
Covid-19 testing for council staff and households with symptoms

OFFICIAL

The government has expanded Covid-19 testing to include testing for additional workers and their families **who have symptoms** of Covid-19, to keep essential services running in Scotland.

If you are eligible to be tested and have symptoms then a negative test would allow you to leave self isolation and return to work more quickly.

The council is following the government guidance on testing to protect the running of our essential services for Glasgow.

Key workers in the health and social care sector will still remain the top priority for testing in Scotland.

Who can be tested?

➢ **You can read the Government's guidance on who should be tested here:** https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-key-workers-in-Scotland/
➢ **The guidance is open to interpretation but if you are currently required to leave your home in order to work then you are very likely to be eligible to be tested.**
➢ If you are one of those people and you are self-isolating (unable to leave your home) with Covid-19 symptoms then you should book a test.
➢ **You can also refer your household members for testing if they are expe**riencing symptoms. They have access to tests because if the results return negative this allows you to continue working rather than self-isolating for 14 days.

You should continue to follow the government guidance on self-isolation on NHS Inform.
You should report your absence in the normal way and to your line manager.

When to get tested?

➢ You should arrange to get tested in the **first three days of coronavirus symptoms** appearing.
➢ If you are self-isolating because a person you live with has symptoms, you can refer them for testing.
➢ To check your symptoms go to NHS Inform

The test is only guaranteed to be accurate if someone is symptomatic. The test will confirm if an individual who is showing symptoms of the virus actually has it. It will not confirm whether they have had it and have now recovered.

How do I get a test?

➢ You should book a test for yourself or a member of your household on the government's website at https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/
➢ The drive-thru test centre is at Glasgow airport and you will need a car to attend the centre.

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- ➢ If you don't have access to a car then we may be able to help you with transport to the test centre, you should contact your Service HR Team, the details are below.
- ➢ A home testing kit is also an option on the website but this is subject to availability.
- ➢ You will also find guidance on the government's website about the testing process.

Full guidance can be found at https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-key-workers-in-Scotland/

I need more support

If you need any support to book a test or you are having difficulty with transport, then you can contact your service HR team. Please provide your HR team with your payroll/employee SAP number and a telephone number.

Service	Contacts
• Education Services **Please email one of the contacts opposite**	Katrina Smith katrina.smith@glasgow.gov.uk James Stevenson james.stevenson@glasgow.gov.uk
• Neighbourhoods and Sustainability, • including City Parking **Please email one of the contacts opposite**	Danielle McGrory danielle.mcgrory@glasgow.gov.uk Andrew Ralston andrew.ralston@glasgow.gov.uk Moira Wilson moira.wilson@glasgow.gov.uk
• Chief Executive's Department • City Property • Development and Regeneration Services • Financial Services	Jackie McCormack jacqueline.mccormack@glasgow.gov.uk

Frequently asked questions

1. **What are the symptoms of coronavirus?**
   To check your symptoms go to NHS Inform

2. **If my symptoms get worse what should I do?**
   If you are concerned about worsening symptoms, please call NHS24 on 111.

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3. **I had symptoms a few week ago, should I now be tested to find out if I've had the virus?**
No. The test is only guaranteed to be accurate if you are currently symptomatic. The test will confirm if an individual who is showing symptoms of the virus actually has it. It will not confirm whether they have had it and have now recovered.

4. **If I receive a negative test when should I return to work?**
Even if you receive a negative result, it's important to still apply caution. If everyone with symptoms who was tested in your household receive a negative result, then you can return to work if your work cannot be done from home, providing you are well enough, and have not had a fever for 48 hours. You should discuss your return to work with your line manager.

5. **If I receive a negative test then develop symptoms, what should I do?**
If, after returning to work, you develop symptoms then you should follow the NHS Inform guidance and self-isolate. You should then consider going for another test.

6. **How do I get my test results?**
Results under the UK testing programme are communicated to individuals directly by text message within 48 hours and are intended to be fed back into public health records in due course. When you get your test results you should share the results with your line manager.

7. **I have a question about test results?**
Any questions about accessing testing, the website, or results should be made through opshub@dhsc.gov.uk.

8. **I need help with transport to the test centre, what do I do?**
We may be able to help you with transport to the test centre and back. You should contact your Service HR Team to discuss this support.

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