COVID testing in Hertfordshire:
How can it help your business operate safely?

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What type of tests are available?

Two types of tests for COVID-19 – rapid tests and PCR tests

Rapid tests (lateral flow tests)

- Fast and simple way to test people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

- 1 in 3 people infected with COVID-19 do not have symptoms, rapid tests are important in identifying these people.

- Easy to use and results are quick - within 30 mins.

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What type of tests are available?

PCR tests

- PCR tests are the gold standard, more accurate and can also detect the new variants of concern.

- Used for people who have symptoms of COVID-19, to confirm results of rapid tests and routine testing of some workforces (NHS and care sector)

- Laboratory needed to process the sample, results usually within 1 day.

- Accessed by ordering online from gov.uk or by visiting a test site.

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What happens with the test result?

- All test results should be logged with NHS Track & Trace.

- Everyone who has a positive rapid test will need to go for a PCR test within 48 hours to confirm result.

- Contact tracing starts immediately when a positive rapid test result is logged with NHS Test and Trace.

- Positive tests triggers the legal requirement for self isolation for 10 days and access to support

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

What is the policy on rapid testing?

- Considerable expansion of rapid testing options over the last few months, and from 9th April
  - Rapid test available to adults and children (year 7+)
  - Encourage regular testing
  - 2x per week, 3-4 days apart

- Delivery of rapid testing supported by specific government testing schemes
  - Workplace (public & private sector)
  - Education sector
  - NHS and social care
  - Community testing sites (local authority run)
  - Online ordering (gov.uk)

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How can businesses support testing?

Option 1: Set up on-site testing.

- DHSC scheme or private provision

Options 2: Distribute home test kits

- Workplace collect

Option 3: Signpost to other testing options

Testing can provide confidence to workers and customers, helping to protect and enable business continuity, and reduce the transmission of infection.

Option 1: What does on-site testing involve?

SET UP TEST SITE &
TRAIN STAFF

ORDER TEST KITS &
PREPARE FOR TESTING

EMPLOYEE
ENGAGEMENT

CONDUCT
TESTING

TEST SAMPLE
ANALYSIS

RESULT NOTIFICATION
& FOLLOW UP

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Option 1: What does on-site testing involve?

DHSC workplace testing scheme

- Employees cannot work from home

- Free rapid tests, support for setting up

- Submit results to DHSC

Private provision

- Companies to provide testing

- List of companies on gov.uk website

- UKAS accredited

- [Register to order free rapid lateral flow coronavirus tests for your employees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](www.gov.uk)
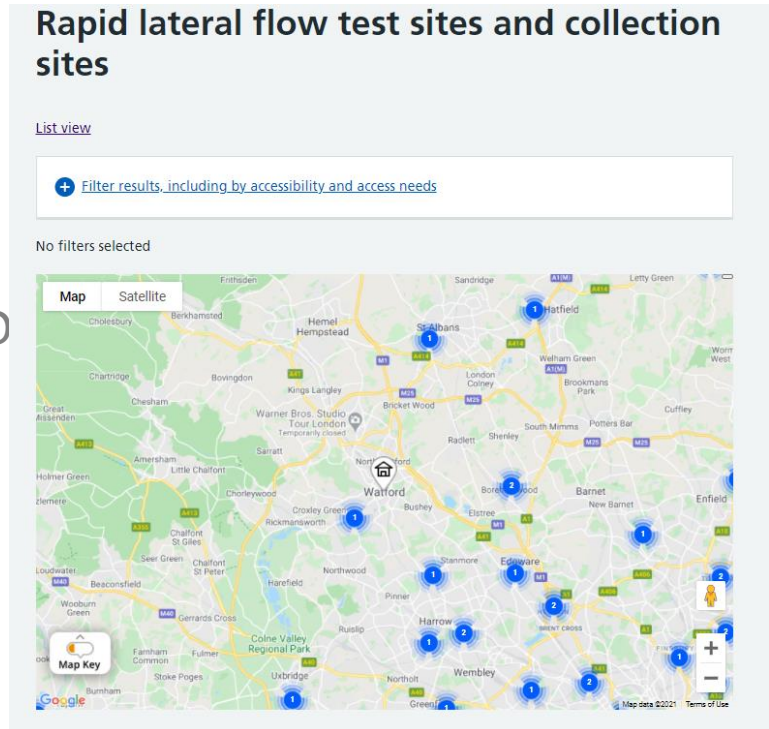
Option 2: Distribution of home test kits

- Workplace collect scheme

  - Employers with 10 or more employees

  - Order tests kits for employees to take home

  - 12th April deadline to sign up for the scheme

  - Employees responsibility to report results to NHS

Option 3: Signpost to other testing options

- Home test kits
    - Order online
    - Community test sites
    - Community pharmacies
    - Details Order coronavirus (COVID 19) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- Testing at a community site
    - Venues across Hertfordshire
    - Details on the council website – www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Rapid lateral flow test sites and collection sites

List view

⊕ Filter results, including by accessibility and access needs

No filters selected

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What can employers can do to support testing?

Leadership commitment

- Reinforce importance of testing to employees and business
- Staff briefings, Q&A, leaflets, discuss in key meetings

Communications

- Positive messages to remind staff to test and encourage uptake.
- E.g. stickers on boxes, reminder texts on day testing, intranet

Monitoring results (online portal)

- Consider asking staff to report results to business as well as NHS
- Leadership team to review results, identify required actions

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What can employers can do to support testing?

- **Support from managers**
  - Regularly discussing with teams, supporting individuals who may need support with the process or have concerns.
  - Maintaining other preventative measures – rapid tests will not pick up all asymptomatic cases.
  - Use the right test – anyone with COVID symptoms needs a PCR test, not a rapid test.

- **Encourage reporting**
  - Rapid reporting means close contacts can be identified quickly and we can stop the spread of infection.
  - Reporting helps us identify where testing levels are low and where problems are emerging, workplace outbreaks and in communities.

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