

OPS UPDATE

7th May 2020

COVID-19 Asymptomatic testing pilot begins

We are undertaking a pilot in testing asymptomatic staff for COVID-19 during the weekend of 9th and 10th May 2020.

Staff who are frontline, PTS, HART or MROs can apply for this test.

There will be set locations where clinics will be running for you to attend via appointment to undertake a self-swab.

What is happening?

The NHS has until now carried out tests for COVID-19 on hospital patients and NHS staff (or people they live with) who have symptoms of the virus. We want to understand better whether COVID-19 is also prevalent among NHS staff and patients who do not have symptoms. This project will help us see whether further steps are necessary to protect people from transmission in healthcare settings.

How the test works

Testing for whether you have the coronavirus starts with a sample being taken from the nose and the back of the throat, using a special swab. The swab is sent to a laboratory where the genetic material from the sample is extracted and is converted into DNA. The DNA is mixed with a solution and goes through a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine. A process of heating and cooling increases the genetic material, so the virus is easily detectable. A similar technique is used for other viruses like influenzas, HIV and Hepatitis C.

What does this mean for me?

This test is for **people without symptoms** only. If you have symptoms, or are self-isolating, please contact your swab-testing lead.

You should participate voluntarily.

As this is a voluntary project to inform best practice, we will not need a written consent form.

You can continue working as normal while waiting for the test result.

If you test positive, you must self-isolate for seven days on receipt of your results.

The seven days starts from the day the test was taken.

If you live with others, the household will need to self-isolate for 14 days from when the test was taken.

If you test negative, then you can carry on working as normal.

How do I arrange a test?

To arrange a test please contact the EEAST Coordination Centre on 0300 790 0267, locations and times of clinics are listed below.

Tests in this pilot scheme are limited and will be allocated on first-come-first-served basis.

If you are part of a crew that will be on the road during the times below, and you would still like to take part, please contact your LOM

Date	Location	Time
Saturday 9 th May	Chelmsford AOC	0900-1600
	Norwich AOC	0900-1600
	Waveney	0900-1200
	Longwater	1400-1700
	Colchester	0900-1700
	Southend	0900-1200
	Chelmsford	1400-1700
	Huntingdon	0900-1200
	Peterborough	1400-1700
	Hemel	0900-1200
	Watford	1400-1700
	Kings Lynn	0900-1700
Sunday 10 th May 2020	Bedford AOC	0900-1600
	Bury St Edmunds	0900-1200
	Ipswich	1400-1700
	Basildon	0900-1700
	Luton	0600-1400
	Kempston	0600-1400
	Cambridge	0900-1700
	Stevenage	0900-1200
	Harlow	1400-1700