**Frequently asked questions**

**Q. Who can be tested?**

A. The government has identified NHS and social care staff as well as other key workers who are eligible for testing. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

**Q. What is the criteria for testing?**

**A.** A key worker or household member of a key worker who has Covid-19 symptoms. Please refer individuals as close to day 1 of symptoms as possible. Individuals that have had symptoms for 5 days or more are unlikely to be eligible for testing.

**Q. I think we are a key worker organisation but we don’t know how to access testing?**

A. Please email covidtesting@dorsetccg.nhs.uk

**Q.  I can’t drive to the site, where can I get tested?**

**A.** If you are unable to drive but live in a household with someone who can, then they should drive you to the testing centre.  You must not ask for someone outside of your household to drive you for testing. Alternative arrangements are being planned to ensure that you can access testing if it is required.

**Q. How are the tests carried out?**

A. The test involves taking a swab of the nose and the back of the throat which will be carried out by a member of the testing team. This might be uncomfortable but should not hurt.

**Q. Who takes the swab?**

A. A number of individuals have been trained to take your swab, including health care professionals, employees of Boots the Chemist and military personnel.

**Q. How long does it take to get the results?**

A. Test results will be sent the individual within 72 hours of a swab being taken. You must inform your employer of the result of your test.

**Q. How can I get a test?**

A. Key worker organisations will be identifying who from their teams is eligible for a test. If you have been identified, you will be contacted directly to book a test at your nearest or preferred testing site. You must book a test in advance you cannot turn up without one. You need to bring identification with you. This will be explained to you when you in a telephone call with the NHS England South West regional team.

**Q. I am a self-employed care worker, can I be tested?**

A. If you think you meet the key worker criteria: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> please email the Dorset Local Co-ordination Centre at covidtesting@dorsetccg.nhs.uk for advice.

**Q. I have been identified as a key worker, if members of my family have symptoms can they be tested?**

A. Yes. If you are a high priority key worker and you are well but are isolating due to a household member who has symptoms, please tell your manager/Occupational Health Team. The household member with symptoms can be tested as long as they meet the criteria. Booking is through keyworker organisations in the same process.

**Q. Can I be tested to check if I am now immune to Covid-19? I previously had symptoms, but I am well now.**

**A.** No. The current test does not test for immunity and is only effective in people that are symptomatic. If you do not have symptoms then you will not be tested.