

Manchester Test and Trace

Tuesday 2 March 2021

Rapid testing update

As of today (Tuesday 2 March) rapid Covid testing is available in Manchester for anyone who can't work from home and whose organisation or employer doesn't have an asymptomatic testing system in place.

The move is preventative and is to test people who live or work in the city, who do not have symptoms – but could still spread the virus without knowing they have it.

The testing will be on a twice-weekly basis, from six sites across the city.

Appointments need to be booked in advance by ringing **0161 947 0770 or 0800 092 4020**. The booking number is open Monday-Friday. Appointments are available on weekdays and Saturdays at a range of different times to suit work and shift patterns.

The testing uses lateral flow devices (LFD) which involve a swab of the nose and throat – and can give a result within half an hour because it does not require sending off to a lab for analysis.

If the person is negative they can continue to work, but must still follow all other safety measures like social distancing, hand-washing and face-coverings. But if the result is positive they must self-isolate immediately and the result will also feed into the NHS Test and Trace system.

It's important to note that people still need to be tested even if they have had their Covid vaccination.

Test sites are across the city at Moss Side Leisure Centre, Debdale Outdoor Centre, FC United of Manchester, Hall Lane Resource Centre, Heathfield Resource Centre and the Rates Hall in Manchester Town Hall.

The scheme is also open to smaller businesses, freelancers and sole traders in the city. Larger businesses (50-200 people plus) are encouraged to sign up by 31 March 2021 for the [national Government scheme](#), which allows them to do their own testing on their premises.

People are also reminded that the current Government advice is for people to work from home still wherever possible.

Q and A on rapid testing with lateral flow devices:

What is asymptomatic testing and why is it being offered?

It's a test for Covid, even when a person is not showing any symptoms. This is because we know some people get the virus and pass it on without ever knowing they had it. You have been offered this test as a someone who cannot work from home, and may have unavoidable contact with others.

This test is to keep you safe, and those you come into contact with.

How does a lateral flow device (LFD) test work?

This is a new test that gives a rapid result within half an hour (and then result uploaded to system) and does not involve being sent off to a lab. It involves a swab to the throat and nose which is then placed in solution and poured over a test device for a reading. If it is positive you will be given advice on what to do.

How do I book in for it and where are the sites?

You can make a booking very easily by ringing **0161 947 0770 or 0800 092**

4020. The number is open Mon-Fri, and tests can be booked on weekdays and Saturdays.

<https://manchester.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html>

The 6 sites being used are:

- Debdale Outdoor Centre, M18 7LJ. The centre is in Gorton, off Hyde Road, and is best reached from Wall Way – opposite a large McDonald's.
- FC United of Manchester, Broadhurst Park, 310 Lightbowne Rd, Moston M40 0FJ. With a big car park.
- Hall Lane Resource Centre, Hall Lane, Baguley, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M23 1WD. The main car park needs to be accessed via Porlock Road (rather than the small car park at the front of the building on Hall Lane). There is also on street parking, without restrictions.
- Heathfield Resource Centre, 63 Heathfield Street, Manchester, M40 1LF. Has a car park and there is also on street parking, without restrictions.
- Rates Hall, Manchester town hall extension, M60 2LA.
- Moss Side Leisure Centre, Moss Lane East, Manchester M15 5NN.

1.What happens when I arrive at the test site?

- Please arrive wearing a face covering
- You will be asked to sign a consent form to take the test and share personal information with us so we can record and tell you your result.
- You will be checked in for your visit

2. You will then be asked to register for your test

- This is how NHS Test & Trace can link you to your test sample and collect contact details to send you your result.
- Registration can be done on a smart phone and takes about 8 minutes the first time you register.
- If you cannot complete this registration yourself, a staff member can help you.
- To complete the registration form, our staff will provide you with:
 - copies of your test kit barcode -- used to track your individual test
 - The test site ID number
 - Test registration card -- used to save a copy of your barcode for your personal records
- Please make sure you keep the barcode copies with you.

3. Taking your swab:

- After you check in, you will be given a swab.
- You will then need to take your own throat and nose swab, supervised by one of our trained staff members. We will walk you through how to swab yourself which will only take about 30 seconds to do. (There is a guide at the end of this letter).
- Our staff will be wearing PPE and they will socially distance from you during the test.
- Once you have handed over the swab, you are able to leave the test site.

4. What does my LFD result mean?

NHS Test & Trace will also send your result via SMS and/or the e-mail that you provided on the online registration form.

- Positive – You must go home immediately and self-isolate (and so should your household) and your result will feed into the NHS Test and Trace system, who will then be in touch about contacts. A positive lateral flow result also means you can apply for support payments if you are eligible for them (see below).
- Inconclusive – If your LFD test is inconclusive, we will ask you to do another LFD test. If this is inconclusive too, we will discuss your visit with you.
- Negative LFD test – you can go back to work, as long as you comply with all other infection prevention and control measures. This is really important. Lateral flow tests can pick up those cases where people have a high enough viral load for it to register – they can't pick up the early, incubation period.

4. What are the benefits to a business for being involved in rapid testing?

Regular LFD staff testing can pick up early infection and can minimise onward transmission and nip potential outbreaks in the bud. This can help to protect other staff and the wider community. This could also prevent a business getting to a crisis staffing level with many staff having to self-isolate as Covid cases or contacts. Regular LFD testing of employees who physically have to go into work will help to contribute to the relaxing of national restrictions as onward transmission of the virus can be reduced.

Regular LFD testing can help employees feel safer in the workplace whilst still continuing to follow COVID-19 secure procedures.

For the latest information on the Local Restrictions Support Grants for business please visit

https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/500362/covid-19/8021/covid-19_businesses_and_employers/2

5. I've had the Covid vaccine, do I still need to do rapid/ lateral flow tests?

Yes, continue to test even though you have had the vaccine

6. I've had Covid-19, do I still need to do rapid/ lateral flow tests?

Yes, continue to test even though you have had the virus.

7. In general, what are all the different types of testing in the city?

For people with Covid symptoms:

PCR test booked at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> via the NHS COVID-19 app or by calling 119 – and tests are available at fixed sites across the city. PCR is short for polymerase chain reaction – and is a swab test to the back of the throat and nose and results are sent for lab analysis. Results normally come back within 24-48 hours.

People who do not have Covid symptoms:

We are using lateral flow tests for workers who do not have symptoms, but cannot work from home and may have more unavoidable contact with others. These are also swab tests and the results are available within 30 minutes because they do not need to be sent to a lab. This is all part of the city's ongoing plans for targeted testing at scale.

Enhanced Community Testing (surge testing) – is mass testing of people looking to check for a new variant or strain of Coronavirus. This is by PCR test, sent off for analysis, and the results can take around 2 weeks.

8. Where can I get help and support if I have to self-isolate?

The following links may be of help:

Support for people self-isolating with COVID-19

Where people have been told to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace and their income has been affected, they could be eligible for a one-off support payment. [Find out more](#)

Help with Debt, Bills and Borrowing

If you are not working or furloughed at the moment due to COVID-19 and need help with debt, bills or borrowing, visit www.manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands for advice and support.

Manchester Community Response Hub

The Community Response Hub offers support to Manchester's most vulnerable people to help them cope with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. The Hub is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and can help with:

- Access to food
- Delivery of medication

- Combating loneliness
- Managing fuel top-up payments
- Getting access to services online

Help is also available for other reasons, for example, if you are a carer, care leaver or young carer. If you need help freephone: 0800 234 6123

email: COVIDSupport@manchester.gov.uk or text: 078600 22876 (messages responded to by the next working day) or visit manchester.gov.uk/coronavirus