

Covid-19

----- Guidance for practices



Date: 13.10.2020

Please be aware that this is a rapidly evolving situation.

General practice staff Covid-19 testing in London

This document details the testing arrangements in:

- [North West London](#)
- [North Central London](#)
- [North East London](#)
- [South West London](#)

North West London

As of the week commencing 5 October the North West London CCGs' position regarding testing for primary care can be summarised as:

- Testing support has been set up for primary care staff who are self-isolating because they or a household member has symptoms (if the latter the household member with symptoms will be the one to be tested).
- This is designed for staff members or their family **who cannot access testing through the national portal** (see Harrow as an exception below).
- Contact your CCG primary lead for more information.

Information currently available regarding testing in local areas:

- **Hillingdon:** Testing kits may be accessed via an arrangement with the Confederation. Limited availability means requests should be made to hillccg.pcc@nhs.net.
- **Harrow:** All staff essential to operations are tested through 'The Alex' (not the national portal), with a 24-hour turnaround from the local lab. There is a dedicated phone line for bookings, available seven days a week. GP forum and practice managers should have received details from the CCG.
- **Brent:** Covid Assessment Centre, Willesden Health Centre, Robson Ave, London NW10 3R. Bookings should be requested online from the [Brent Coronavirus Patient Assessment Centre](#).
- **Hounslow:** Hounslow CCG has commissioned Covid antigen testing from Berkshire and Surrey Pathology service (BSPS) for Hounslow GP practice staff. Antigen tests need to be ordered through BSPS ICE system. Practice staff or their household members who are not registered with their own GP practice will need to be registered as a temporary patient.
- **West and Central:** Covid testing for GP staff is provided by the GP Federation from St Charles Health and Wellbeing Centre.

Covid-19

----- Guidance for practices



North Central London

There are a range of testing options available across NCL, where staff are experiencing difficulty accessing Covid-19 testing through the national portal. Note: these are not accessible to patients.

- **Huntley Street (Kings Cross):** Please email uclh.staffreferralsc19testing@nhs.net with your name, mobile number and organisation, and someone will contact you within 24 hours.
- **Royal Free (Hampstead):** Please email rf.covidcommunitytesting@nhs.net for appointments at the Royal Free hospital. Ensure you state your full name, date of birth, mobile phone number, place of work and job title.
- **Great Ormond Street Hospital:** Please email staffcovidscreening@gosh.nhs.uk
- **Barnet Hospital or Chase Farm Hospital (Drive-through):** Please email rf-tr.barnetcovid19@nhs.net or call 07773 578 558. Ensure you state your full name, date of birth, mobile phone number, place of work, job title and car registration number.
- **North Middlesex University Hospital (Drive-through):** Please call 07561699185 between the hours of 10.00am and 3.30pm to book an appointment.
- **Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (Drive-through):** Please email michelle.hodgkinson2@nhs.net with your first name, surname, place of work, phone number and car registration number.

On 25 September NCL confirmed additional capacity at three sites for bookings from staff in primary care:

- **Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital:** Please email rnoh.rnohtesters@nhs.net with your first name, surname, organisation you work for, phone number and car registration number.
- **University College London Hospital:** Please email uclh.staffreferralsc19testing@nhs.net with your name, mobile number and organisation, and someone will contact you within 24 hours.
- **North Middlesex University Hospital (Drive-through):** Please call 07561 699 185 between the hours of 10am and 3.30pm to book an appointment.

You will only be eligible for a test if you or one household member (over 2 years of age) are presently symptomatic. If your symptomatic household member is a child, you are likely to need to swab them yourself once you are at the testing centre.

Covid-19

----- Guidance for practices



North East London

- Testing is only available to staff and members of their household who have symptoms, such as a new persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell.
- Practices and providers can refer staff for drive-thru test sites via [this link](#).
- Staff can also self-refer for testing at a local test site via [the same link](#).
- For now, home testing is accessible for self-referral via the [Gov.uk website](#)
- Activity tracking and data can be made available at system level.

East London Health Care Partners (ELHCP) in partnership with the North England CSU (NECSU) have been working to deliver a system for a Single Point of Access (SPA) to integrate all staff test programmes centrally in North East London. The system has been shaped to incorporate local supported testing site offers and home testing.

What this means for GP practices/providers:

- Each practice/provider should access the Single Point of Access NECSU booking site directly when nominating staff and/or members of their household for swab testing at a local supported test site. Primary care staff may also self-book their appointments and members of their household directly. To do so GPs or their staff need to enter that they are an 'employer' and then put their own name (or members of their household) down as employees.
- Please make your referral (either by you as an employer or your self-referral) by [following the link](#). This will then send you an email with the link for you to select your drive-through test site and time or your home testing kit.
- Testing via this portal is only available to staff and members of their household who have symptoms - new persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell.

What this means for Staff testing:

- Once the referral is made, an email is generated and sent to the staff member's email address with the instructions to enable the direct booking online for a test at their nearest test location.
- Staff will have more access to attend local supported sites on offer throughout the boroughs
- Once the test is booked, staff will be given information on how they will receive their test results, which should be made available within three days of the test having been undertaken.
- Staff should notify their employer directly of the outcome of any results

Support for using the system is available through the NECSU Support Team:

- Email: necsu.covid19keywordktesting@nhs.net
- Telephone: 0191 691 3656

There is an [interactive PDF map of North East London](#) to help people find local testing sites.

Covid-19

----- Guidance for practices



Testing options

1. Route 1: East London Health & Care Partnership PCR swab test offer

- This is accessible to health and social care staff who have Covid-19 symptoms. You need to contact your employer to access a PCR swab test through this route.
- Employers can access it by [completing the details here](#).
- GPs can book onto the portal as staff who are self-employed. For other practice staff, the practice manager could act as the single point of contact to register staff onto the portal who require a PCR swab test.
- This offer can be used to access a home test or booking a slot at one of the walk-in/drive-through sites.
- This offer also applies to members of the household of employees.
- You need to get a PCR swab test done within the first 5 days of having symptoms. After that it is too late. You can get tested at a site or at home on days 1-4. If you are ordering a home test kit on day 4, do so by 3pm. On day 5, you need to go to a test site. It is too late to order a home test kit.
- If you have any issues with this system please contact the support team on necsu.covid19keyworkertesting@nhs.net or 0191 691 3656.

2. Route 2: National employer portal for key workers

- Employers can refer essential workers for testing if they are self-isolating because either they or member(s) of their household have coronavirus symptoms.
- They can do this by uploading the names and contact details of self-isolating essential workers to the secure employer referral portal.
- Referred essential workers will then receive a text message with a unique invitation code to book a test for themselves or their symptomatic household member(s) at a regional testing site.
- To get a login to the employer referral portal, employers of essential workers should email portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk.

3. Route 3: Self-referral for key workers

- Available for anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms. Select the “I am an essential worker” option.
- You can ask for the [test online here](#).

Covid-19

----- Guidance for practices



South West London

From 28 September 2020, NHS frontline staff or household members who have Covid-19 symptoms have been able to access a test through local NHS hospitals.

A test can only be offered if you or a member of your household has one or more of these symptoms. We cannot offer a test to anyone who does not have symptoms. If you or a household member does have symptoms, you can book a test at your local Trust in the following ways:

- **Croydon Health Services NHS Trust:** You should complete a screening form for yourself and/or a household member and email it to ch-tr.staffscreening@nhs.net. You will be called by the triage team for assessment and an appointment will be booked for you to attend the drive through testing centre at Croydon University Hospital. Swabbing will take place at the POD, which is adjacent to the Emergency Department and accessible via the Mayday entrance.
- **Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals:** You should email esth.swab_cv19@nhs.net to request a test. You will then be contacted to book an appointment to have a swab taken. The POD is at St Helier Hospital in front of the Queen Mary's Hospital for Children.
- **Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust:** Arrangements for the testing at Kingston Hospital are currently being amended and we will circulate the details once they are finalised.
- **St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust:** Ask your line manager to request a test for yourself and/or household member. Your line manager should email your name/your household member's name and contact telephone number to stgh-tr.ciu-referrals@nhs.net, copying in ohadmin@stgeorges.nhs.uk. You or your household member will be contacted by the POD to triage and will then be given an appointment for a swab, taking place at the Bence Jones Unit on the Perimeter Road.