

People Directorate
Salford City Council
Chorley Road
Salford
M27 5AW

Dear Parent/Carer,

Earlier this month, we launched free rapid COVID-19 tests for people who are either frontline/critical workers or those who cannot work from home during the national lockdown.

The testing is entirely voluntary, but is crucial in our fight against COVID-19 and to get Salford back to normal. We know that one in three people can have COVID-19 but have no symptoms, so we're targeting rapid testing towards people who still need to leave home to go out to work and may therefore be spreading the virus without realising it.

We have several testing sites open across Salford. Appointments need to be booked through www.salford.gov.uk/how-to-get-tested and select "I don't have any COVID symptoms".

The test is a nose and throat swab which you will do yourself. You will be given full instructions, but you simply swab the back of your throat and nose for 10-15 seconds each, and then pass it over to the testing team who will process the sample to get your result. Once you've done your test, you will need to leave the testing site and wait for a text message to confirm your result, usually within one hour.

We recommend repeating the test twice a week, every three to four days, as this allows more infections to be detected.

As you will no doubt already be aware, COVID-19 is a virus which affects people in different ways; from having no symptoms at all to becoming extremely ill and dying. If you, or anyone you know, is eligible for this rapid testing, please do participate so we can do everything possible to stop this virus.

Please note:

We are **still advising immediate isolation** to anyone who is suffering three **typical symptoms**, namely: new continuous cough; a high temperature (fever); or a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell. If you feel unwell or start to show any of the COVID symptoms, please book a test via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119.

Best wishes,



Cathy Starbuck
Assistant Director (Education, Work and Skills)

Rapid COVID-19 testing: Your questions answered

What is rapid testing?

Salford is one of many areas to begin using rapid lateral flow antigen tests. These tests can be used in the community and give a quick result, without needing to go to a lab for processing. This means they can be used to test more symptom-free people, which help us to identify and isolate more people with the virus, who are at high likelihood of spreading COVID-19. This will break the chains of transmission.

Who are we testing?

In Salford, we are targeting our testing towards specific groups of people who are most at risk of exposure to the virus because of the employment sector they work in or their workplace and who, if they had COVID-19 without realising, would be at higher risk of spreading it to work colleagues or the general public.

People who cannot stay at home for work purposes are advised to have a rapid test twice a week. Job roles such as:

- Retail workers (as we're now in national lockdown, this will be people who are working in essential retail only)
- Taxi drivers
- Construction workers
- Tradespeople, such as electricians or plumbers
- Carers
- Nursery workers/childminders
- Frontline public sector employees

This list is not exhaustive and general guidance is that anyone who needs to leave home and mix with work colleagues or customers, clients, pupils or patients will be eligible for the rapid tests. Over the next few weeks, as we roll out the testing programme, these targeted groups will be invited to be tested twice a week

Who cannot be tested

If anyone fits the following criteria, they cannot be tested using rapid lateral flow tests:

- People who have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough or loss/change to sense to taste/smell). Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate immediately and book a test via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- People who are self-isolating should not leave the house for a rapid lateral flow test
- You are under the age of 16 (unless you are a young carer)

How do I find out more?

Go to www.salford.gov.uk/how-to-get-tested for details on the locations of the rapid testing sites, FAQs and to book a test.