

COVID – more Local Testing Sites opening across Hampshire

Five new testing sites will open in Hampshire over the next two weeks, making it easier and more convenient for local people to access testing for coronavirus

The new site locations are in:

- ♣ Aldershot
- ♣ Basingstoke
- ♣ Gosport
- ♣ Havant
- ♣ Winchester

Councillor Keith Mans, Leader of Hampshire County Council and Chair of Hampshire’s Local Outbreak Engagement Board, said: “These **appointment-only** walk-through sites are a very welcome addition to the testing provision we already have within the county. They will help ensure access to prompt and convenient testing, particularly for those who are unable to access testing sites by car, which is key to preventing further spread of the virus.

“Viral infection rates in Hampshire are rising – in all areas, though thankfully still not as rapidly as elsewhere in the country, but we know how quickly and easily the virus can be transmitted from person to person. We are currently in Tier 1 (Medium) of the new COVID Alert Levels which means the national restrictions continue to apply within Hampshire, and it is important that anyone with symptoms – however mild – seeks a test promptly. It is equally important that those who do not have symptoms refrain from booking a test, in order to manage demand and to ensure that tests are available for those who really need one. We would also remind residents that they should return home immediately after their test and remain in self-isolation whilst awaiting their results.”

The specific locations of the new sites and more information about opening hours will be published ahead of each new site becoming operational later this month. The walk-through sites are designed for pedestrians who have booked a test in advance – **there is no drop-in facility available**. It is also important to note that when booking a test you will be offered the next available appointment – this may not necessarily be in the location nearest to where you live.

Anyone unable to travel to a Local Testing Site by private car or walking should consider [booking a home test](#).

When to get a test

- Only book a test if you have one of the [three main symptoms](#) of the virus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell and taste), or if you are advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace.
- Do not book a test if you have returned from a quarantined country unless you have symptoms.

How to get a test

- Book [online](#) or by calling 119 from 8am. Do not call NHS 111 as this is for other health and medical issues.
- When booking online, make sure you complete the form in full. This includes confirming that you have read and agreed to the terms and conditions. You will then be sent a QR code which is required to enter the testing site.

What to do if you are having difficulty booking a test site near you

- Keep trying – more tests are made available throughout the day.

This new testing provision boosts the current capacity of the permanent regional testing centre at Southampton Airport, as well as the three Mobile Testing Units which are deployed around the county to wherever there is greatest need.

Hampshire County Council, working closely with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum partners, is responsible for arranging the testing locations in the area. The provision and availability of testing is led by the Department of Health and Social Care.