

Covid-19 testing in Suffolk

UPDATE 11 September 2020 from Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health Suffolk

There is currently a high national demand for testing. As a result, Suffolk residents may experience difficulty in securing a test. Given this current situation, here is the latest guidance regarding testing in Suffolk. We have pulled together this FAQ which may be helpful for your understanding and for answering any queries you may get.

Who should get tested?

Government advises that only people with symptoms of Covid-19 should book a test. These symptoms are a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

When do I need to get tested?

You must get tested in within 5 days of first experiencing Covid-19 symptoms. If you have difficulty getting a test on Day 1, or the location or time offered are not convenient, be patient and try again a few hours later or the next day. More tests are made available throughout the day at www.nhs.uk or by calling NHS 119.

When do I need to self-isolate?

As soon as you experience Covid-19 symptoms you must book a test within 5 days and self-isolate. This means that you and anyone you live with must stay at home until you get your result. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home.

How can I get tested in Suffolk?

For those with symptoms of Covid-19, there are three ways to get tested:

1. Via www.nhs.uk or calling NHS 119, book an appointment at the Regional Testing Site at Copdock, near Ipswich
2. Via www.nhs.uk or calling NHS 119, book an appointment at a Mobile Testing Unit, there are a number of sites across Suffolk which can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/testing
3. Request a Home Testing Kit, delivered to your home

What happens if I can't get a test?

If you have difficulty getting a test on Day 1 of having Covid-19 symptoms, or the location or time are not convenient, be patient and try again a few hours later or the next day. You must get tested in within 5 days of first experiencing Covid-19 symptoms. More tests are made available throughout the day at www.nhs.uk or by calling NHS 119.

Public Health Suffolk is currently working with partners and the Suffolk Health Protection Board to explore how we can increase testing capacity, particularly for key workers.

Do I need make an appointment to get a test?

Yes. Only people with pre-booked appointments will be accepted at the Regional Testing Centre or a Mobile Testing Unit. However, if you have requested a Home Testing Kit, this will be delivered to your nominated address for you to complete at home.