



Information from Public Health and Regulatory Services

COVID-19 testing for workers who don't have symptoms

Regular and rapid COVID-19 testing is available in Cheshire West and Chester for workers who cannot work from home and who either come into contact with members of the public, or work in close proximity with people from separate households but don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

You do not need to have any symptoms of COVID-19 to access this testing – government data shows that one in every three people with the virus does not have symptoms, so this type of testing is designed to stop people from spreading it without realising. You should **not** attend these testing centres if you have symptoms, you should isolate and book a test via one of the channels referenced below.

There are different options for businesses still operating with over 250 employees, and for small and medium sized businesses.

Cheshire West and Chester have two asymptomatic testing centres (in Ellesmere Port and Winsford) where people who cannot work from home can attend for testing.

Testing for businesses with over 250 employees

Businesses with over 250 employees that are still operational should email PandPSector@dhsc.gov.uk. To register their interest in the scheme, large businesses must send their company name, registration number, contact details and sector type, along with the number of employees along with 'Register interest for National Worker Programme' in the subject line.

Testing for businesses with 250 employees or less

Who can attend?

Cheshire West and Chester is prioritising those members of the public that cannot work from home due to the industry they work in, this might include (but is not limited to):

- Manufacturing and production industries
- Essential retail
- Construction and utilities
- Contact centres
- Logistics centres
- Healthcare and public sector services
- Animal welfare and management

What is the test?

You carry out the test yourself at the centre using a swab which you rub at the back of your throat and in one nostril. The test is not painful, although it may be slightly uncomfortable. Your results will be sent to you by text message or email approximately half an hour after you have done your test. If you do not have a mobile phone or email address, you can telephone 119 after 24 hours to receive your results instead. You can be in work during that 24-hour period.

You can attend for a test every week or every two weeks – this is something that your organisation will need to decide. When you come to the test centre, please wear a face covering and bring your staff ID.

Where can I get tested?

Two testing centres are available:

- [Stanney Oaks Leisure Centre, in Stanney Lane, Ellesmere Port, CH65 9DB](#)
- [Winsford Lifestyle Centre, The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AD](#)

You do not need an appointment to get tested. You can arrive at a time that suits you - although if the test centre is busy you may have to queue. The test centre will be open from 9am to 7pm from Monday to Friday, and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Both sites operate the same hours.

What happens if I test positive?

If you test positive, you and your household need to self-isolate immediately, regardless of the fact you do not have symptoms.

You will need to book a second, confirmatory test straight away at one of our local testing sites (NOT an asymptomatic testing site). You can book this test on line at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phoning: 119.

If the confirmatory test is negative, you and your household can stop self-isolating. If your confirmatory test is positive, you and your household will need to complete the 10 days self-isolation period.

The result of your test will be passed to the NHS Test and Trace Programme, and contact tracers will speak to you to find out who you have been in contact with, and to give advice about self-isolation.

What happens if my test result is negative?

If your result is negative, you do not need to self-isolate and you can carry on your daily activities as normal. Like everybody else, you still need to practice the preventive measures:

- Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitiser, regularly throughout the day
- Use a face covering when out and about
- Keep at least two metres apart from others

What should I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, you should book a test at: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phoning: 119. There are several test centres within the borough offering tests for people with COVID-19 symptoms. These test centres use a different kind of test which is designed for people with COVID-19 symptoms.

Travelling to a test centre

Employees who cannot work from home can travel to their nearest testing centre for the purpose of testing. Employers might want to provide a letter to employees to confirm this position so that employees can attend and return to work with minimal disruption, in the event they are stopped and questioned.

Testing large volumes of staff

We encourage businesses to plan testing of staff at offsite centres, so arrival times are staggered. This should hopefully reduce the time they are at the centres. We do not currently have a booking system, however, should you need to send more than 20 staff at the same time for a test please contact healthprotectionsecure@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk to discuss options available to you as an employer.

Our team can provide additional advice and guidance for large companies considering corporate test centres on their premises.

For more information:

Email your enquiry to: healthprotectionsecure@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Or visit www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk and click on COVID-19 testing.

Play your part

