



E: childcaretestingprogramme@gov.scot

27 April 2021

NOTE FOR ALL CHILDMINDING SERVICES

To all registered childminding services,

Following a previous provider notice on testing for childminders on the 19th February, this message provides an update on expanded access to testing which childminders may wish to undertake.

You will be aware that since February, childminders have been able to access asymptomatic PCR testing if you have been concerned about being exposed to Covid-19. That access to an asymptomatic PCR test remains in place and a reminder of how to access these tests is below.

However, you may also be aware that the First Minister has announced an expansion of access to asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device testing for anyone in the population who wishes it.

Childminders will be able to access this at home self-testing alongside the rest of the population, and may wish to do so.

Details of how to access at home LFD testing can be found on the Scottish Government Website: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested in Scotland](#)

Any queries should be directed, as instructed in the link above, to 119.

It is important to remember that the asymptomatic testing does not replace the safety measures and mitigations that you have put in place within your settings. We must all remain vigilant in continuing to follow all appropriate measures to ensure settings remain low risk environments.

You can find the [refreshed guidance document for childminding services](#) on the Scottish Government website.

Accessing Asymptomatic PCR Testing

The Essential Worker Portal has been updated so that staff who work in Health or Social Care, Education, or in an Emergency or Prison service in Scotland can access a COVID test if they do not have symptoms. This includes childminders and their assistants.

A test can be booked by the individual via the Get a Free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

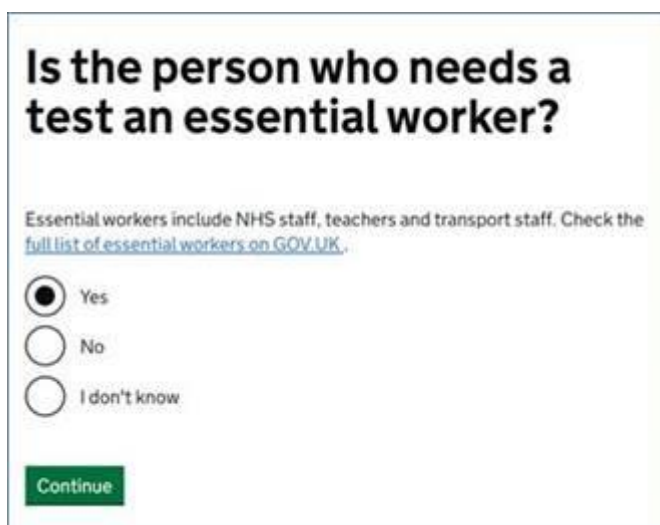
Detailed instructions are below:

You should click on the Booking process link: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test



The next page you are presented with, asks if you are an essential worker.

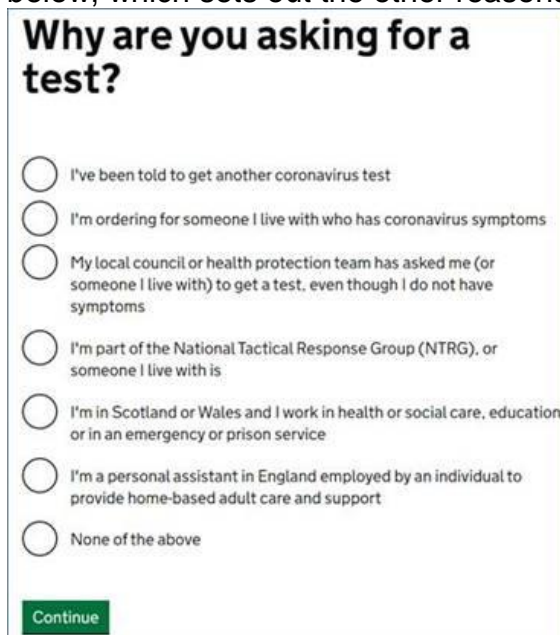
Select Yes.

A white rectangular box with a light green background. At the top, the question "Is the person who needs a test an essential worker?" is written in bold black font. Below the question, smaller text reads "Essential workers include NHS staff, teachers and transport staff. Check the [full list of essential workers on GOV.UK](#)." There are three radio button options: "Yes" (selected), "No", and "I don't know". At the bottom left is a green "Continue" button.

You will then need to work through the questions asking about symptoms

- Select NO you do not have any symptoms.

After a couple of pages (say no at each), you will be presented with the screen below, which sets out the other reasons that you could be requesting a test:

A white rectangular box with a light green background. At the top, the question "Why are you asking for a test?" is written in bold black font. Below the question are seven radio button options: "I've been told to get another coronavirus test", "I'm ordering for someone I live with who has coronavirus symptoms", "My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms", "I'm part of the National Tactical Response Group (NTRG), or someone I live with is", "I'm in Scotland or Wales and I work in health or social care, education or in an emergency or prison service", "I'm a personal assistant in England employed by an individual to provide home-based adult care and support", and "None of the above". At the bottom left is a green "Continue" button.

Click on the option:

I'm in Scotland or Wales and I work in health of social care, education, or in an emergency or prison service.

This will then lead to the pages to input your personal data and contact data and bring up availability of appointments at nearby test sites.

Things to consider before requesting a PCR test:

- Some individuals, out of concern for their own health or that of others, seek a test even when they have no symptoms. This may give a sense of assurance but can be misleading and cannot exclude the possibility that the virus is present, or that the person may go on to be infected or to develop the illness.
- The COVID-19 tests we use in Scotland work by detecting evidence of the virus in a person's nose and throat sample (which is collected using a nasopharyngeal swab to collect secretions from the back of the throat and then the back of the nose). These tests cannot tell us whether or not someone is incubating the disease, but only if evidence of the virus is present at the time when they are tested. This means that testing is a single point in time assessment of whether a person may be infectious but it cannot tell us whether a person is going to become ill in the future.
- Therefore a negative result cannot reliably be used to inform individual risk or as the basis for reducing mitigations to reduce the risk of transmission such as hygiene and distancing.
- Sometimes when the test is taken and returns a positive result, it needs to be repeated. Self-isolation must continue until the repeat result is available and further advice provided thereafter by your NHS team.
- If you have tested positive from a PCR test then you should not participate in another test for 90 days – including LFD testing (if you have symptoms and they persist you should call NHS 24/111).
- If you have been a close contact of someone with coronavirus you will be asked to isolate for 10 days and take a PCR test.