

Update on the COVID-19 Community Testing Service in Devon

26 February 2021

Call to action:

If you leave home to work or volunteer, or you are in contact with vulnerable people, regular testing will help to keep you and your community safe.

Testing is key to breaking the chain of coronavirus transmission, especially as around one in three people who have the virus don't display any symptoms and may be unknowingly spreading it.

Please share this message with any Devon-based networks you are aware of.

The offer:

- Free, painless and easy to book – results within an hour via text or email
- The service provides rapid lateral flow testing
- For anyone who must leave home to attend work or volunteer, and people who are in contact with vulnerable individuals, such as paid and unpaid carers
- For people who **do not** have symptoms of COVID-19
- Testing is important even after you have been vaccinated, as you may still be able to pass on the virus even if you do not get symptoms
- Multiple locations now open across Devon and more opening
- Testing available at some sites seven days a week
- Book via devon.cc/testing

Details:

This free service is available for anyone who must leave home to attend work or volunteer, and people who are in contact with vulnerable individuals, such as paid and unpaid carers.

This service will help to find individuals who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms and who may be spreading the virus without realising it.

There are multiple locations across Devon now available, see list below, with more being planned over the following weeks.

People should **NOT** book a test at a community testing site if they are experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#). If they have any of those symptoms, they should use the [GOV.UK website](#) or call 119 to arrange an NHS test.

- You **must** book an appointment to attend a testing site so that we can manage the numbers on-site to allow for social distancing. Book via devon.cc/testing.
- If you are in regular contact with the public in your working week, **testing twice weekly is advisable**
- If you are in occasional contact with the public, or a vulnerable person, you may wish to test on the day of the visit or the day before
- Employers should not be asking members of staff to get tested before they come into the workplace
- A lateral flow test is useful for picking up asymptomatic positive cases so that people can isolate for ten days and not spread to others. A negative test gives does not give people a 'green light' and they must continue to adhere to restrictions and hands, face, space at all times.

Test site locations

Tests are available seven days a week from these locations, with early and late opening on Mondays and Thursdays:

- **Exeter:** County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD
- **Barnstaple:** North Walk Car Park, Taw View, Civic Centre, Barnstaple, EX31 1EE
- **Tiverton:** Exe Valley Leisure Centre, Bolham Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6SG

Tests are available twice a week from these locations:

- **Axminster** (Wednesday and Sunday): West Street Short Stay Car Park, West Street, Axminster, EX13 5NX
- **Exmouth** (Tuesday and Saturday): Foxholes Car Park, Queen's Drive, Exmouth, EX8 2DB
- **Honiton** (Monday and Thursday): Blackdown House, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton, EX14 1EJ
- From 6th March – **Ivybridge** (Wednesday and Saturday): Leanoard's Road Car Park, Ivybridge, PL21 0RU
- From 5th March – **Okehampton** (Tuesday and Friday): Mill Road Car Park, Okehampton, EX20 1PS
- From 4th March – **Tavistock** (Monday and Thursday): Riverside Car Park, Tavistock, PL19 9A

More locations in Devon will be available in the next few weeks.

Further information:

- Information about the DCC Community Testing Service is available from devon.cc/testing.
- Press release from DCC, 26 February: [Mobile testing units in East and West Devon set to go on the road](#)
- Press release from DCC, 26 February: [Tiverton's new rapid community testing site now taking bookings](#)
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Large and medium-sized employers (more than 50 employees):

NHS Test and Trace are advising that large and medium organisations in both the public and private sector with over 50 employees can [apply directly to GOV.UK to set up their own workplace testing](#). If companies have specific queries following that, they can contact the relevant team at the Department for Health and Social Care. via P-and-PSector@dhsc.gov.uk.

Sent on behalf of the Community Testing Service at Devon County Council