

THE WILSON PRACTICE

National guidance regarding testing for Coronavirus

Issued to practices 16 September 2020

Scaling up testing capacity and managing demand

The Department of Health and Social Care and local authorities are currently scaling up testing capacity to reach 500,000 tests nationally a day by the end of October. They are also expanding the network of testing sites and laboratories as well as investing in new testing technologies. The service will continue to be very busy.

Advice for patients

- Get a test if you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms – a temperature, a new continuous cough, or a change or loss in taste or smell.
- Anyone who tries to book a test and is unable to do so, or who is offered a location or time which is not convenient, is kindly requested to wait a few hours and then try again.
- More tests are made available throughout each day online (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>) or by calling 119. Please note – tests cannot be ordered via GP surgeries.
- For in person testing, bookings are made available the evening before for following morning appointments, and in the morning for afternoon appointments on the same day.
- If a test site near someone is not available on their first booking attempt, they are advised to try again later in the day. Patients must make an appointment. Anyone who goes to a test site without an appointment will be turned away.
- For home testing, in rare circumstances when there is high demand, the booking portal is paused for short periods. The advice is to try again later in the day.