

Testing for Coronavirus

Further Information and Privacy

Purposes of this test

You have been invited to undertake a coronavirus priority virus test because you or someone in your household is a critical worker and is currently following government guidelines on self-isolation.

The reason for the test is to ascertain whether you currently have coronavirus. This is so that you can:

- take the right steps to look after yourself
- protect others
- potentially reduce the amount of time for which you have to self-isolate.

The test is a swab of your nose and throat undertaken at one of the Trust testing sites. The test is not 100% accurate; at present it is thought to detect approximately 70% of coronavirus¹ infections. A negative test does not mean that you stop self-isolating if you have coronavirus symptoms.

Tests are completely voluntary. By agreeing to the test you also agree to the result of the test being used as described below.

Once you have taken the test, your sample will be analysed in the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) Microbiology Laboratory and your results uploaded to your records in the EPR system. You will be informed of the result within 48 hours (positive, negative or inconclusive) by a senior clinical staff member of the testing team using the telephone contact you have provided.

Healthcare staff with positive results should follow this advice:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings

Further return to work advice is available on the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Trust COVID-19 Internet page: www.ouh.nhs.uk/staff-faq

Household members with positive results should follow this advice:

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#ending-isolation

Purposes for which your information will be used

Your information will be used for:

- confirming your appointment to the test site
- performing a security and ID verification at the test site
- receiving and processing your test

- returning your results to you by telephone
- sharing anonymised group data within the Trust for Infection Control purposes
- if you are resident in England, sharing results with Public Health England to help plan and respond to coronavirus
- if you are resident in England, instructing NHS Digital to link your test result to your GP record, and to analyse data in relation to coronavirus
- if you live in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, sharing anonymised results with your country's health bodies (to inform local planning and responses to coronavirus)
- undertaking quality assurance of the testing process
- analysis to support operational decisions to improve the testing process
- day-to-day use, for example to check if you attended your appointment
- to inform regional test sites of improvements to the testing process, for example to manage capacity or throughput
- support end-to-end logistics planning.

Other purposes for which your information will be used

Your information may also be used for different purposes that are not directly related to your health and care.

These include:

- research into coronavirus (including potentially being invited to be part of clinical trials)
- planning of services or actions in response to coronavirus
- monitoring the progress and development of coronavirus.

Information provided by you, and collected about you, in relation to testing for coronavirus will not be used for any purpose that is not linked to coronavirus.

Wherever possible, information that does not directly identify you will be used for these purposes, but there may be times when it would be helpful for your personal data to be used, with your permission, for example for research purposes related to coronavirus.

Any releases of information that identify you will be lawful and the minimum necessary for that purpose.

The Trust is required by law to collect, and share information and data relating to coronavirus with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Public Health England (PHE), and NHS Digital for purposes related to managing coronavirus pandemic. This requirement will remain in place at least until 30 September 2020. The DHSC has issued [privacy guidance on how it will use data](#) that we have to submit to them.

Legal basis

The legal basis for processing your personal data is:

- GDPR Article 6(1)(e) – the processing is necessary for the performance of its official tasks carried out in the public interest in providing and managing a health service
- GDPR Article 9(2)(h) – the processing is necessary for medical diagnosis, the provision of health treatment and management of a health and social care system
- Data Protection Act 2018 – Schedule 1, Part 1, (2) (2) (f) – Health or social care purposes

- [The Health Service \(Control of Patient Information\) Regulations 2002](#) and related Notices under COPI 2002 (20 March 2020)

You can request (for example), from the organisations named in this notice, copies of the information they hold about you.

If you are unhappy or wish to complain about how your information is used as part of this programme, you should contact the Trust's Centre for Occupational Health and Wellbeing or relevant organisation in the first instance to resolve your issue.

If you are still not satisfied, you can complain to the [Information Commissioners Office](#).

Retention and storage of your information

The results of your testing are stored in your health records that are kept on the Trust EPR records system.

For English residents, your information will be stored in line with the [Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016](#). This means we will keep your information for up to 8 years before we dispose of it.

If you live in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, there is [country-specific information on retention of records](#).

Information that identifies you will be stored securely, and processed in, the UK.

Information that does not, and cannot, identify you may be stored and processed outside of the UK. For example, information purely about the number of tests conducted, or the number of outcomes from tests.

ⁱ (Comparative accuracy of oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swabs for diagnosis of COVID-19, www.cebm.net/covid-19/comparative-accuracy-of-oropharyngeal-and-nasopharyngeal-swabs-for-diagnosis-of-covid-19 2020)