Briefing for key workers

Updated list of essential workers and those prioritised for NHS testing - England

In line with national guidance and local need the key worker and essential worker list has recently been updated. This means that these groups are also now prioritised for NHS Pillar 1 Covid testing when booking a test.

Tests in the UK are carried out through a number of different routes:
- **pillar 1: swab testing in Public Health England (PHE) labs and NHS hospitals for those with a clinical need, and essential workers**
- **pillar 2: swab testing for the wider population**

Anyone working in the groups listed below can identify themselves as an essential worker when booking a test online. This will make it easier and quicker to get a test when needed. Please check if your organisation has registered for NNUH testing by asking senior staff for a booking reference, if not registered please can your line manager to email **norfolkregistercovidtesting@nnuh.nhs.uk** Please do not use this mailbox to request a test.

Once you have your reference number, please request a test by sending an email with your reference number, name and contact number to **covidtesting@nnuh.nhs.uk**

During busy testing periods these groups of key workers will be prioritised depending on which group they fall in, but regardless of this when booking a test they should always identify themselves as a key or essential worker. For the complete list of essential workers please refer to the end of the guide.

The list of key workers is divided by priority
- **Priority 1 – main groups for NHS Pillar 1 (key worker) testing**
- **Second line – appropriate for NHS Pillar 1 testing if capacity is available**
- **Third line – only available if there is residual testing capacity in NHS Pillar 1**

Priority 1 – main groups for NHS Pillar 1 testing

Frontline local authority staff and volunteers, including:
- Those working with vulnerable children and adults, victims of domestic abuse, and the homeless and rough sleepers (and hotel staff supporting these groups)
- Voluntary sector organisations providing substance misuse treatment
- Foster carers supporting vulnerable children

Education workers working in Special Educational Needs settings:
- Special Educational Needs professionals

Second Line priority testing – eligible for NHS Pillar 1 testing if capacity is available

Essential public services staff, including:
- Charities and workers delivering critical frontline services
- Public health and environmental health staff, such as specialist community public health nursing

Education and childcare workers in other educational settings, including:
- Students and staff from higher education settings with halls of residence

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Third line – only available if residual spare NHS Pillar 1 capacity

Critical personnel in the production and distribution of food, drink and essential goods, including:
- Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery

Utilities, communication and financial services staff, including:
- Essential staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 essential services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors

If you are a key worker or an essential worker as listed above and develop COVID symptoms or have been asked by your employer or by NHS Test and Trace to book a test please call **119** or visit **http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/our-services/covid-19-testing-key-workers/**

If you need to book a test for individuals who are not essential workers visit **NHS/coronavirus** or call **119**

The complete list of key and essential workers eligible for priority testing is given below:

Priority 1 – main groups for NHS Pillar 1 testing

- **All NHS and social care staff, including:**
  - Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers (inc social work practitioners), care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff, including community pharmacists and their staff, students on clinical placements, volunteers and unpaid carers
  - The support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector
  - Those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines, and medical and personal protective equipment
  - NHS Blood and Transplant frontline staff (blood donation staff, specialist nurses for organ donation, staff running therapeutic apheresis services in NHS hospitals)
  - Those providing ancillary support to NHS workers (such as hotel accommodation for NHS staff)
  - Personal care assistants

- **Frontline local authority staff and volunteers, including**
  - Those working with vulnerable children and adults, victims of domestic abuse, and the homeless and rough sleepers (and hotel staff supporting these groups)
  - Voluntary sector organisations providing substance misuse treatment
  - Foster carers supporting vulnerable children

- **Education workers working in Special Educational Needs settings:**
  - Support and teaching staff
  - Social workers
  - Special Educational Needs professionals

Second Line priority testing – appropriate for NHS Pillar 1 testing if capacity is available

- **Essential public services staff, including:**
  - Prisons, probation, courts and tribunals staff, judiciary
  - Religious staff
  - Charities and workers delivering critical frontline services
  - Those responsible for the management of the deceased
  - Journalists and broadcasters covering coronavirus or providing public service broadcasting
  - Public health and environmental health staff, such as specialist community public health nursing

- **Local and national government staff critical to the effective delivery of the coronavirus response, or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits**

- **Public and environmental health staff, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies**

- **Funeral industry workers**

- **Public safety and national security staff, including:**
  - Police and support staff
  - Ministry of Defence civilians, contractors and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of critical defence and national security outputs and critical to the response to the coronavirus pandemic), including defence medical staff
  - Fire and rescue service employees (including support staff),
  - National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas
  - British Transport Police and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency

- **Education and childcare workers in other educational settings, including: *prioritise over the above if capacity is constrained**
  - Support and teaching staff
  - Social workers
  - Specialist Educational Needs professionals
  - Students and staff from higher education settings with halls of residence

- **Those critical to the provision of other essential goods, such as medical supply chain and distribution workers, and testing (such as PHE labs), and veterinary medicine**

Third line – only available if residual spare NHS Pillar 1 capacity (main access route is pillar 2)

- **Transport workers, including:**
  - Those who keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus response
  - Those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass

- **Critical personnel in the production and distribution of food, drink and essential goods, including:**
  - Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery
  - Those critical to the provision of other essential goods, such as medical supply chain and distribution workers, and testing (such as PHE labs), and veterinary medicine
  - Workers critical to the continuity of essential movement of goods

- **Utilities, communication and financial services staff, including:**
  - Staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
  - The oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
  - Information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus response
  - Essential staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 essential services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors