

27 May 2020

Information on Coronavirus testing in Hertfordshire

Testing is available for anyone aged over five years old who is in the first few days of having suspected symptoms can have a test.

Symptoms of coronavirus are: a new continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of, or change in a person's normal sense of taste or smell.

Tests are effective if people are swabbed in the first three days of having suspected coronavirus symptoms. They cannot detect whether somebody has had coronavirus in the past.

To book a test, go online to www.gov.uk/coronavirus and enter your details. You will be sent a booking code. **The booking system will only show you details of test locations which are available in the following 24hrs.**

When all the available tests slots have been booked at a particular test site, that location will not appear on the national list. Additional capacity is added regularly, so check-in on the website throughout the day if you are not successful at booking a local drive-through or mail-order test the first time you try.

Hertfordshire mobile test sites are all open between 10am and 4pm and are now as follows:

- on Thursdays in Watford at the Central Watford leisure centre, WD17 3HA
- on Saturdays in Hertford at County Hall, Pegs Lane, SG13 8DQ
- on Sundays in Watford at the Central Watford leisure centre, WD17 3HA
- on Mondays in Stevenage, off Six Hills Way, SG1 2DF. Please follow the signs to the test centre, to ensure that you *do not* join a queue for the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Please bring a mobile phone to the test centre if you have one. Drive-through tests are available at a range of other locations on different days of the week across the country. Book online or order a mail order test via www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

People will have heard about the 'test, trace and isolate' programme that the government is planning to introduce nationally. We will share information about how this will work locally here in Hertfordshire, when things become clearer.

The antibody test for NHS and social care staff has also been on the news. Again, this is something that we will provide more information on when we have the details.