

# **Manchester COVID-19 Testing**

**Community testing for Covid-19 is taking place in this area – help stop the spread by getting a test**

Dear Resident,

A small number of number of cases of a new Covid-19 variant, first found in Kent, have been found in parts of Manchester. It is good that they have been identified – this means that immediate action can be taken at an early stage.

As an extra precaution we are offering extra testing to everyone who lives in this area. This means we can test specifically for the new variant in a large number of people who do not have any symptoms. It is called surge testing. It means that we can spot cases of the new variant early and stop it spreading.

From Tuesday 9 February we will be setting up extra testing sites in areas of Moss Side, Hulme, Whalley Range and Fallowfield. Street teams will be knocking on doors to ask people over the age of 16 who lives here to get a test.

If you DO NOT have Coronavirus symptoms and are over the age of 16 years old and live in parts of Moss Side, Hulme, Whalley Range and Fallowfield you should take a Covid-test. To see if this applies to your postcode, and how to get a test go online here: [manchester.gov.uk/covidtesting](https://manchester.gov.uk/covidtesting)

## **How do I get a test?**

You can attend one of the Local Testing Units:

- Our Lady's RC Church, Raby Street, M16 7JQ.  
Opening times: 10 am – 5 pm Monday to Saturday
- Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurdwara Temple, 15 Monton Street, M14 4LS.  
Opening times: 10 am – 5 pm Monday to Sunday (closed Friday between 12noon and 1 pm).
- Arrahman Manchester Islamic Cultural Association, 16 Bedwell Street, M16 7LN.  
10 am till 5 pm.
- Moss Side Leisure Centre, Moss Lane East, Manchester M15 5NN  
7.30 am - 6 pm, Monday to Friday, and 10 am - 2 pm Saturday and Sunday. (But not open on Sunday, 14 February).

## **What if I have coronavirus symptoms?**

Please stay at home and book a test in the usual way at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus), via the NHS COVID-19 app or by calling 119. Do not go to one of the new testing sites.

## **What if I can't get to a test site?**

Local health and social care services will contact people who are unable to attend a test site, for example because they are housebound or shielding. Arrangements will be made for these people to get a test at home. We will be in touch with you. Please do not contact the council or your GP.

## **What type of test will it be?**

The test will be a PCR swab test, which is when the sample is sent off to the laboratory for the results to be analysed. We will be able to tell you the results in a couple of days, although the new variant will take around two weeks to confirm.

If you have tested positive using a PCR swab test in the last 90 days, you do not need to take another test.

## **When will I get the test results?**

The results will take a few days to come back but you don't need to isolate while you wait for them. You only need to isolate if you have symptoms or if you have

been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid.

## **What if I get a positive test result?**

Anyone with a positive result will have to self-isolate for 10 days and inform NHS Test and Trace of their close contacts. It will then take a couple weeks to find out whether your positive test was the new variant or not – Manchester Test and Trace will contact you if you had the new variant.

## **What does this new variant mean for me and our community?**

The coronavirus is constantly changing and mutating, which means there will often be new strains detected.

We know all viruses change over time so there is no reason to be concerned that this strain is more severe than others – or that vaccinations won't work – but it's important that Public Health England can track how any new variants are spreading.

If a person tests positive, has any symptoms, or are contact traced following contact with someone who tests positive, they should self-isolate for 10 days immediately.

In the meantime, it's really important that everybody continues to follow the lockdown rules to keep us all safe and remember to wash your hands regularly,

wear a face covering and maintain distance from people who don't live with you.

## **What if I get called for the vaccine?**

If you've been called for a vaccine you should still attend. You should only rearrange your vaccine appointment if you become unwell with Covid-19 symptoms.

## **What if I have already had the vaccine?**

If you've already had the vaccine, please still take a test because it can take a few weeks to build up immunity to the virus and this is an extra precaution to be on the safe side. It will also help us to understand if and how the virus has spread in the local community.

**Please help to keep your community safe by getting tested so we can track the variant and protect you and your loved ones. For more information, please visit [manchester.gov.uk/covidtesting](https://manchester.gov.uk/covidtesting)**

\* \* \*

Manchester City Council

NHS