

Community Collect testing service launches in St Helens Borough

From today, households of school children, members of support bubbles, childcare and those in related occupations can collect Covid-19 home testing kits from selected sites across St Helens Borough, subject to availability.

The community Collect testing service is planned to be rolling out to all St Helens Borough residents in the near future.

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Twice weekly symptom-free (rapid lateral flow) testing of people without coronavirus symptoms is important to help stop the virus from spreading and protect your loved ones.

Home testing kits can be collected from the following walk-in sites;

- St Marys Indoor Market, St Helens Town Centre, WA10 1AR - Monday to Friday, 8.30am–6pm and Saturday and Sunday, 10am–3pm.
- Fairclough Street Car Park, Earlestown, Newton-le-Willows WA12 9QR - open Monday to Friday, 1.30pm to 7pm.
- Haydock Park Racecourse, Newton-le-Willows WA12 0HQ – open Monday to Friday, 1.30pm to 7pm.

There is no need to make an appointment to collect a home test kit. Do not visit a collection site outside of opening hours, as they could be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside of these times. If you are 18 or over you can collect 2 packs of home test kits, each pack contains 7 tests.

Secondary Schools and Colleges will continue to provide tests for students to complete twice weekly at home until further notice.

Councillor Anthony Burns, St Helens Borough Council's cabinet member for Wellbeing, Culture, and Heritage, said: "Effective community testing is absolutely vital to our efforts to contain the virus and stop the spread in our community, so I do urge people to come forward to get tested – we recommend twice a week. It's brilliant that families and members of support bubbles or childcare bubbles of pupils or staff at schools and colleges can now pick up at-home test kits as well as attending [symptom-free testing sites](#)."

Sue Forster, Director of Public Health for St Helens Borough Council, said: "Testing is quick and easy and step-by-step instructions are included in the test kits. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, testing will be key for us to all need to play our part to help protect each other. All local residents can get tested by attending a [symptom-free testing site](#) for a supervised Covid-19 test."

If you have any coronavirus symptoms – a new, continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss of sense of smell or taste – it's vital that you do not attend a test site and instead book a test online at www.gov.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119."

For more information about testing locally, visit:

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-testing/>

ENDS