

Treatments for COVID-19





Treatments for COVID-19

The NHS offers treatment to people who are at the highest risk of becoming very ill when they get COVID-19.



Who can get COVID-19 treatments?

You can get an **assessment** for treatment if:



- you are at the **highest risk** of getting very ill from COVID-19



- you have **tested positive** for COVID-19

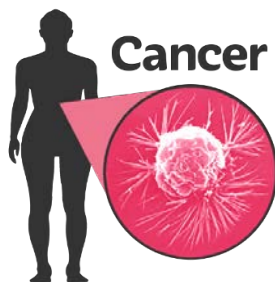


People at highest risk

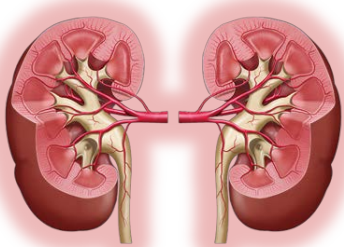
You may be at highest risk of getting very ill from COVID-19 if you have certain medical conditions such as:



- conditions to do with chromosomes such as Down's syndrome



- some types of cancer



- kidney disease



- liver disease



There are **other medical conditions** that put you at highest risk.



More information is available on the NHS website:

www.nhs.uk/CovidTreatments



You could also speak to your doctor or GP to check if you are at highest risk.



Treatments for COVID-19



Some treatments come as tablets that you swallow and can take at home.



Other treatments are given through a drip in your arm at a hospital or health centre.



The treatments can help people manage their COVID-19 symptoms and lower their risk of becoming very ill.



How to get COVID-19 treatment

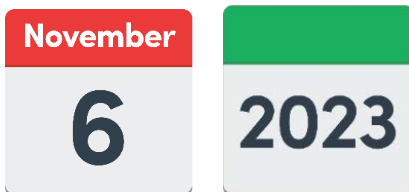
If you think you are in the highest risk group, you should:

1



Keep lateral flow tests at home

If you are in the highest risk group, you should keep lateral flow tests at home. This is a test to see if you have COVID-19



Since **6 November 2023** there have been changes to the way you receive free Covid tests.



You **cannot** order free lateral flow tests by calling 119 or from the website GOV.UK.



Instead, you should pick up free lateral flow tests from a local pharmacy if you are in the highest risk group.



The pharmacy may ask about your condition, so you are able to get free tests.



If you have a copy of a **letter** or **email** from the NHS about COVID-19 treatments, please bring it with you.



The **letter** or **email** is not needed but it will help the pharmacy to quickly check that you can get free tests.



Someone else can collect free tests for you such as a friend, relative or carer.

NHS CARE **Volunteer Responders**

You might also be able to book a volunteer responder by calling them on

0808 196 3646.



Volunteer Responders are people who can help deliver things to people who are unable to leave their homes.



If a friend, relative, carer or volunteer goes to collect your free Covid tests, the pharmacy might ask them for information about you such as:



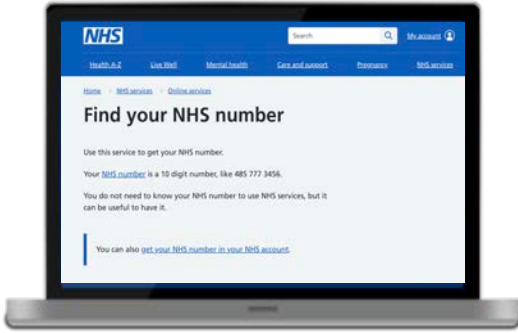
- your medical condition that means you are at highest risk



- your name



- your address



- your [NHS number](#) – if you have it. This is a number that tells NHS staff about you.



- your date of birth.



So you must make sure they have this information.



They should also bring any copies of **letters** or **emails** sent to you by the NHS about COVID-19 treatments.

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Take a lateral flow test if you get symptoms

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, take a lateral flow test as soon as possible, even if your symptoms are mild.



You could get someone you trust to support you to take the lateral flow test.



List of Covid symptoms

Symptoms are any signs that you might have Covid such as:



- A high temperature



- Shivering which is sometimes called chills – feeling very cold and shaking



- A new cough that does not go away



- Losing your sense of smell or taste or noticing a change to how things taste or smell



- Shortness of breath



- Feeling tired



- An aching body



- A headache



- A sore throat



- A blocked or runny nose



- Loss of appetite



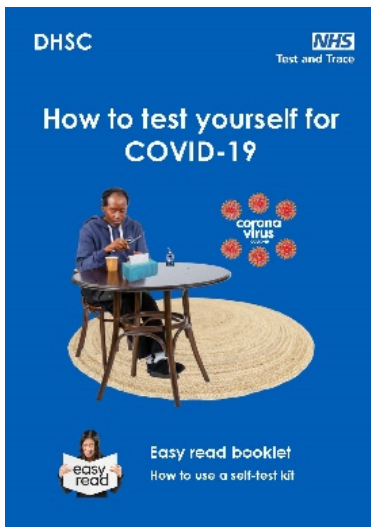
- Diarrhoea or runny poo



- Feeling sick or being sick



Only take a test if you have symptoms.



[Click here for Easy Read instructions](#) on taking a lateral flow test at GOV.UK.



Or search online for '**lateral flow test instructions**'.

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If your test is positive, call your GP, NHS 111 or hospital specialist

If your test result is positive you should call **one** of the following as soon as possible:



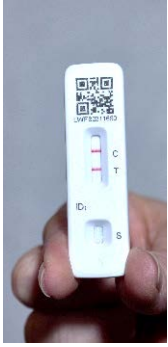
- your GP surgery



- your hospital specialist - this is a doctor you see regularly in a hospital about an ongoing medical condition



- NHS 111



You should tell them:

- You have tested positive for COVID-19



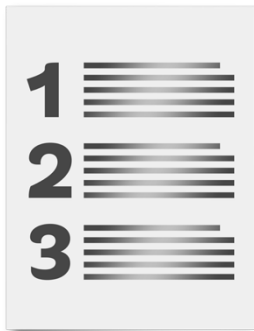
- you are in a highest risk group and might need COVID treatments



They will decide if you need an assessment for COVID-19 treatment.



As part of the assessment, you might be asked about the medication you take.



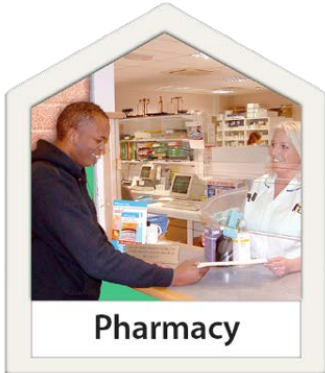
It would be useful to make a list of your medication in case you need to discuss this in the assessment.



Look at all the medication you take and write the names down or ask someone you trust to help do this for you



Getting the treatment



If the treatment is tablets, they can be collected by a friend, carer, or family member.



The NHS will advise you where the medicine can be collected



or they will let you know if it can be delivered to you.



Other treatments are given through a drip in your arm at a hospital or health centre.



You will get information about:

- where to get your treatment
- how to get there
- how to get back home safely.

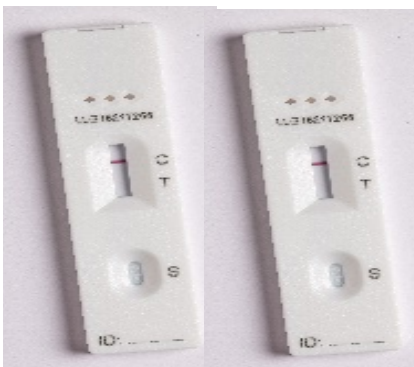
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If your test is negative, continue to test for the next two days



If your test result is **negative**, but you still have symptoms of COVID-19 you need to do **more tests**.



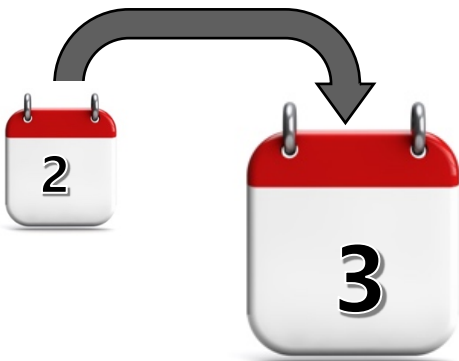
You need to do **one test a day** over the **next two days**.



For example, if you did your **first test today** you should:



- do the **second test** tomorrow



- do the **third test** the day after.



If **any** test result is **positive**, you should stop testing and call **one** of the following as soon as possible:



- your GP surgery



- your hospital specialist



- NHS 111.



For more information about the treatments go to:

www.nhs.uk/CovidTreatments



The information is **not** in easy read so you may need support.