



NHS Scotland guidance for PCR testing for care at home staff through the DHSC portal

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

January 2021

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Summary: Testing for care at home workers

What is the service?

- Weekly PCR testing of care at home staff in adult social care.
- Care at home provider managers should order tests every 28 days for their care at home workers
- Four tests are delivered for each care at home worker to the employer, for a 28 day testing cycle
- Each care at home worker should be given four test kits every 28 days.
- Every 7 days a care worker should take a test, register it online, and return it by post between Thursday and Sunday
- Care at home workers will receive their results in 2 to 4 days by email and text message (SMS)

Why is testing important?

- Identifies care at home staff who currently have
 Covid-19 so they are able to self-isolate if their result is positive
- Protects those receiving care from infection passed to them by care at home staff who are confirmed positive
- Prevents and controls the spread of the virus by identifying asymptomatic cases

Which organisations are able to access test kits?

Your organisation is able to access testing now if:

- You are a Care Inspectorate regulated homecare organisation in Scotland providing personal care
- This is defined in the Care Inspectorate data as locations with the primary inspection category "Community based adult social care services" and providing the service type "Domiciliary care service".
- If you believe you match these criteria and have not been contacted by NHS Test and Trace with information on ordering test kits, please call 0300 3032713

How am I involved?

A "Care at Home organisation manager"

You are the manager of a care at home provider, responsible for a team of care at home workers or you have been delegated responsibility for testing by your organisation

Your key responsibilities are to:

- 1. Attend a webinar to understand the process
- 2. Order test kits for your care at homeworkers for every 28 day testing cycle
- 3. Communicate your organisation Unique Organisation Number (UON) to care at home workers
- 4. Distribute test kits to your care at home workers
- 5. Encourage and support your care at home workers to complete weekly testing. This must happen between Thursdays and Sundays

A "Care at home worker"

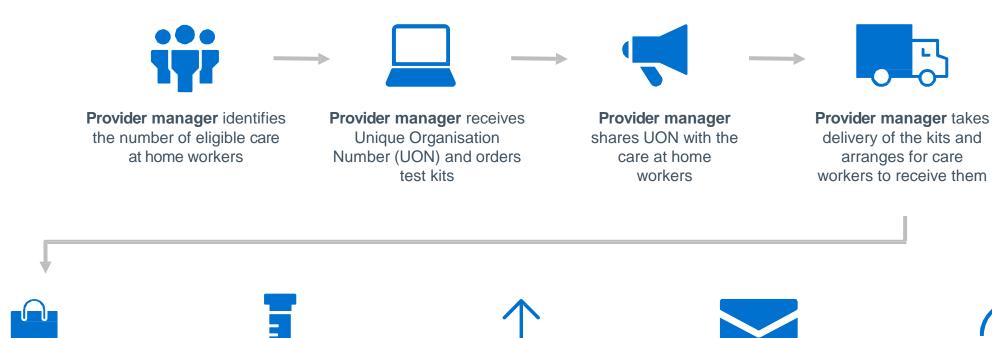
You are a care at home worker who visits people with care and support needs in their homes

Your key responsibilities are to:

- 1. Conduct tests weekly only between Thursdays and Sundays
- 2. Register your tests as soon as you have completed them each week using your employer's Unique Organisation Number (UON)
- 3. Return your test kits at a Royal Mail priority post box on the same day that you take the test
- 4. If you test positive: isolate, notify your line manager and provide contacts to NHS Test and Protect
- 5. Regardless of your result, continue following all IPC measures such as wearing PPE, washing your hands and socially distancing where possible

How the service works

Summary: Testing for care at home workers



Care at home worker receives four kits from the provider manager

Care at home worker takes their own swabs using test kit

Care at home worker registers test kit online, providing the UON from their provider manager

Care at home worker returns test kit on the same day of testing via their nearest priority post box

Care at home worker receives results via email and text message (SMS)

Repeats process every week

If you have any queries with any of the steps please call the national coronavirus contact 0300 3032713

Unique Organisation Number (UON)

NHS Test and Trace assigns all participating organisations a single Unique Organisation Number (UON)

Care at home provider managers will receive their UON via the email address registered with Care Inspectorate. Please make sure that the person who receives these emails understands the importance of this message and knows who to contact

A UON is an 8 digit number which is exclusive to an individual organisation. This can be used to login to all online elements of the testing process

Care at home provider managers will need to use their UON for:

- Ordering test kits (https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk)
- Contacting the national coronavirus contact center for support (0300 303 2713)

Care at home workers will need to use their UON for:

• Registering completed test kits to make sure they will receive their results (https://gov.uk/register-organisation-tests)

If you have any issues with this process, please call 0300 303 2713



Ordering test kits









Ordering test kits

The care at home provider manager is responsible for ordering test kits for the care at home workers in the team

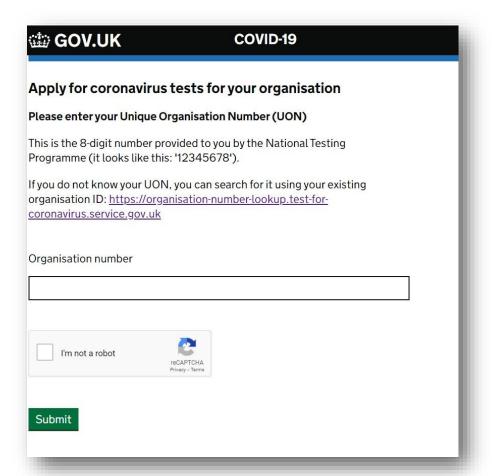
Each employer manager must register for test kits using this link (https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk)

In order to apply, you will need:

- Your Unique Organisation Number (UON)
- The total number of care at home workers for testing

When ordering you will be asked to enter the number of nonstaff. You should enter zero for this

Once you have placed and order, the you will receive a confirmatory email from the following address: organisation.coronavirus.testing@notifications.service.gov.uk



Screenshot of entering a UON



After test kits have been ordered

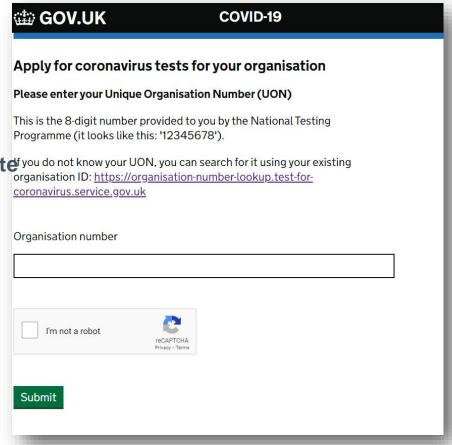
The care at home provider manager will receive an email from: organisation.coronavirus.testing@notifications.service.gov.uk when their test kits have been dispatched, informing them of their delivery date

Test kits will be delivered in boxes of 40 to the **registered**address of your care at home organisation with the Care Inspectorate you do not know your UON, you can search for it using your existing organisation. It is the contraction to the programme (it looks like this: '12345678').

The care at home provider manager is responsible for taking delivery of the test kits

The employer manager must then order kits every 28 days for their care at home workers

If you have any issues ordering test kits, please call 0300 303 2713



Screenshot of entering a UON



Communicating to your care at home workers



Communicating to your care at home workers

The **care at home provider manager** is responsible for communicating key information that care at home workers will need to successfully conduct testing

We encourage care at home provider managers to use existing communication channels that are best suited to your team. The activities which need to take place are:

	Communication	When to do this?	Recommended form of communication	Alternative form of communication
1	Share your location's Unique Organisation Number (UON) with care at home workers in the team	Before test kits are delivered, care workers will need the UON to register their kits	Send an email to all care workers including the UON. Suggested wording will be provided	 Group text message/WhatsApp Display the UON where team members can see it (e.g. team noticeboard) Add information to workers' wage slips
2	Make the team aware of the process	Before the test kits are delivered	Email relevant links to the team. Suggested wording will be provided	 Announce in team meetings Watch the webinar as a team
3	Share all relevant support materials	Before testing begins	Email relevant links to the team. Suggested wording will be provided	Provide printed copies of materials to the workforce who need them
4	Inform the team that the kits have arrived, and distribute them or arrange collections	As soon as the kits are delivered	Most appropriate channel for your team, e.g. Microsoft Teams channel	Share a drafted email Group text message/WhatsApp



Distributing test kits









Distributing test kits

Once the kits are delivered to the registered address, it is the care at home provider manager's responsibility to distribute them to care at home workers.

The care at home provider manager should inform their team that the kits have arrived. They can either distribute the kits or advise carers to collect four test kits each as soon as possible.

You will know best how to handle the distribution process for your team but below are some suggestions that have been put forward by care at home providers as part of our initial research.

- 1. Care at home workers can pick up kits at the same time they pick up other materials (e.g. PPE, consumables and other medical supplies)
- Care at home provider managers or supervisors can hand out the kits to the group at daily/weekly meetings

Ensure each care worker receives 4 kits every 28 days so that weekly testing can continue without interruption

Each test kit should include a pink individual Royal Mail return label. Please check that there is one in each bag provided.

Encouraging participation

Encouraging participation

In order to protect your care at home workers and the people they support, it is important that care at home workers are encouraged to complete the end-to-end weekly process of:

- 1. Completing the test **between a Thursday and Sunday** each week
- 2. Registering the test online
- 3. Returning the test through a priority post box

Below are some ideas that we have seen work well to encourage participation for homecare workers:



Digital tracker (e.g. Microsoft Teams) so care at home workers can confirm they have tested each week



A physical tracker (e.g. a matrix on a team notice board with stickers for completed tests)



Text/WhatsApp group message reminders to test



Sending outlook invite placeholders to remind team members to test



Collecting or receiving test kits



Collecting test kits

The care at home provider manager will inform care at home workers when test kits arrive and how they can be collected or distributed

Each care worker should take four test kits, one for each of the four weekly testing cycles

Please ensure you have postage labels for each test

Prepare for testing by looking at guidance

Before testing be sure to:

- Read guidance for care at home workers
- Read guidance included with your test kit
- Watch the instructional video for self swabbing

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-taking-swab-samples/how-to-use-the-self-swabbing-kit-for-a-combined-throat-and-nose-swab-video

If a care at home worker becomes symptomatic and has a kit available at home, they should test themselves in addition to the normal weekly cycle

Instructional video for self swabbing



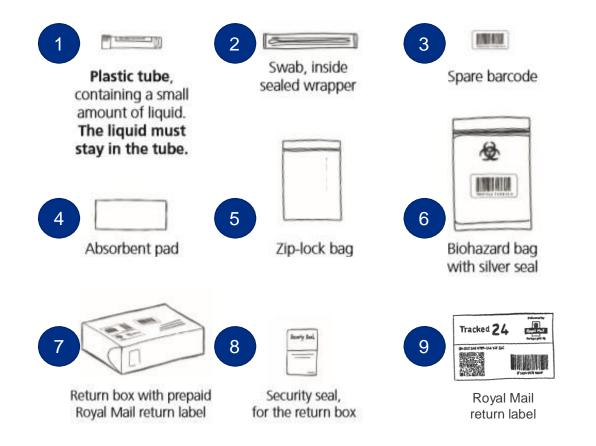


Using the test kits





The test kits homecare workers will receive will be standard organisation test kits; they will contain:





An example test kit

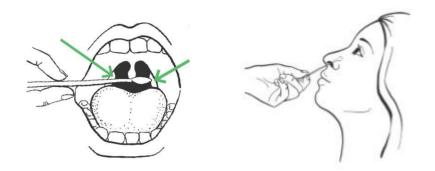


Taking the test

Care at home workers will conduct a combined throat then nose self-swab for the test

Follow the instructional video on how to do a throat and nasal swab

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/co vid-19-guidance-for-taking-swab-samples/how-to-use-the-self-swabbing-kit-for-a-combined-throat-and-nose-swab-video





You must only conduct your test between Thursdays and Sundays. Testing on other days may result in delays replenishing your employers test kits after your four week cycle. Try to take the test on the same days each week, where possible.

Always leave 7 days between tests where possible

If possible please continue testing whilst on holiday (in the UK) or off work due to illness which is not related to Coronavirus



Registering test kits







Register







Registering test kits

Steps to register a test kit:

These are the key steps, for full step-by-step instructions please see the appendix Each week you should register your test after you have completed your test

- Please go to https://organisations.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register- organisation-tests
- Enter Unique Organisation Number of your homecare employer, you will receive this from your employer manager
- Enter or scan test kit barcode, please enter carefully and do not copy and paste
- Enter personal details:
 - Name
 - Whether they are a service user or staff member
 - Whether they have symptoms or not
 - Gender
 - Date of birth
 - Email address (for results)
 - Phone number (for results)
 - Home postcode
 - NHS number (optional, note that this is important to update the subjects' NHS records)
- Check your answers
- Test kit registration confirmed
- You will receive confirmation of registration via email

If there are any problems with registering a test kit, please call 0300 303 2713

GOV.UK

Get a coronavirus test



ALPHA This is a new service - your feedback will help us to improve it.

Register test kits for your care home, GP or dental surgery

Use this service to register coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits for:

- · care home residents and staff
- · people tested at their GP or dental surgery

after they take the swab test.

If a member of staff gets coronavirus symptoms, send them home immediately to self isolate. Then they'll need to apply for a coronavirus test

To complete this form, you'll need

- the test kit you are registering
- your mobile number, or a mobile number for the person you're registering it
- The permission of the person being tested to enter their personal details



Screenshot of the registration portal



Returning test kits











Returning test kits

Each test kit contains a pink pre-paid return label. Please attach this to the outside of the delivery packaging next to the security seal. If there is no label in the kit please check in the box that the kits were delivered in. If additional support is needed please call 0300 303 2713

The test kit should be returned via a Royal Mail priority box

You will find your nearest priority post box and its collection times at www.royalmail.com/services-near-you

Only use a Royal Mail priority post box. It will be labelled with the below Priority Box sign and one of the regional NHS logos. Please do not enter any Post Office with the kit



Example of Royal Mail priority post box





















Returning test kits

Please be aware of the following key points to ensure samples reach the laboratories in time:



Post kits in the priority mail box at least one hour before the last collection time to ensure that it is not missed



Locate your nearest priority post box and collection times in before taking the test. Tests should be posted on the same day as they are taken



Some post boxes do not collect post on Sundays, and so please check if there is a collection available before testing on Sunday



Receiving results



Receiving results

The person tested will receive:

- 1. An email
- 2. A text message (if a mobile phone number was provided at registration)

The results will also include guidance on next steps for the person tested. We have included example guidance in the next few slides for your information.

Care at home workers should inform their employer of a **positive result** immediately so that they can protect others that the care worker may have come into contact with at work

Find out more about what to do when you get your results Coronavirus (COVID-19): Testing in Scotland | NHS inform



Examples of email containing results

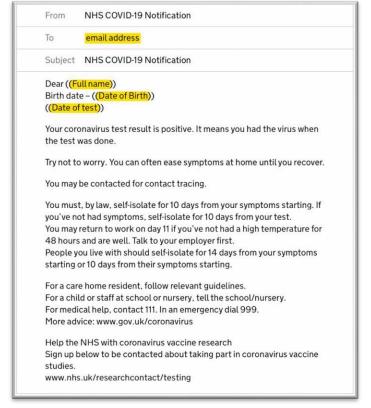
There are 3 possible results – Negative, Positive and Unclear

Negative

NHS COVID-19 Notification To email address Subject NHS COVID-19 Notification Dear ((Full Name)) Birth date - ((Date of Birth)) ((Date of test)) Your coronavirus test result is negative. You did not have the virus when the test was done. You only need to self-isolate if: you get symptoms of coronavirus (you'll need a new test) • you're going into hospital (self-isolate until the date you go in) · someone you live with tests positive • you've been traced as a contact of someone who tested positive For advice on how long to self-isolate, go to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and read 'Self-isolation and treating symptoms'. Otherwise, you may return to work if you've not had a high temperature for 48 hours and feel well. Talk to your employer first. For a care home resident, follow the care homes guidance. If the resident still has symptoms, they may need a repeat test. Contact 111 if you need medical help. In an emergency, dial 999. Help the NHS with coronavirus vaccine research Sign up below to be contacted about taking part in coronavirus vaccine www.nhs.uk/researchcontact/testing

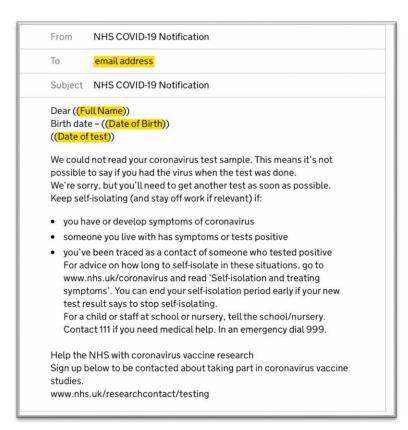
Email template for negative result

Positive



Email template for positive result

Unclear



Email template for unclear result











Results & repeat

Examples of text message containing results

There are 3 possible results – Negative, Positive and Unclear

Negative

Your coronavirus test result is negative. You did not have the virus when the test was done. You only need to self isolate if:

- You get symptoms of coronavirus (you'll need a new test)
- You're going into hospital (self-isolating until the date you go in)
- Someone you live with tests positive
- You've been traced as a contact of someone who tested positive

For advice on how long to self isolate, go to Coronavirus (COVID-19): General advice | NHS inform and read 'Self- isolation and treating symptoms'

Otherwise, you may return to work if you've not had a high temperature for 48 hours and feel well. Talk to your employer first.

For a care home resident, follow the care home guidance. If the resident still has symptoms, they may need a repeat test.

Contact 111 if you need medical help.

In an emergency, dial 999.

Positive

Your coronavirus test result is positive. It means you had the virus when the test was done.

Try not to worry. You can often ease symptoms at home until you recover. You may be contacted for contact tracing.

You must, by law, self-isolate for 10 days from your symptoms starting. If you've not had symptoms, self-isolate for 10 days from your test.

You may return to work on day 11 if you've not had a high temperature for 48 hours and are well. Talk to your employer first. People you live with should self-isolate for 14 days from your symptoms stating or 10 days from their symptoms starting.

For a care home resident, follow relevant guidelines

For a child or staff at school or nursery, tell the school/nursery.

For medical help, Contact 111. In an emergency, dial 999.

Unclear

We could not read your coronavirus test sample. This means its not possible to say if you had the virus when the test was done. We're sorry, but you'll need to get another test as soon as possible. Keep self-isolating (and care worker off work if

Keep self-isolating (and care worker off work i relevant) if:

- You have or develop symptoms of coronavirus.
- Someone you live with has symptoms or tests positive.
- You've been traced as a contact of someone who tested positive.

For advice on how long to self-isolate in these situations go to Coronavirus (COVID-19):

General advice | NHS inform and read 'Self-isolation and treating symptoms'. You can end your self-isolation period early if your new test results says to stop self-isolating.

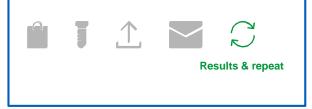
For a child or staff at school or nursery, tell the school/nursery.

Contact 111 if you need medical help. In an emergency, dial 999

Examples of text message containing results

Text template for negative result

Text template for positive result



Text template for unclear result

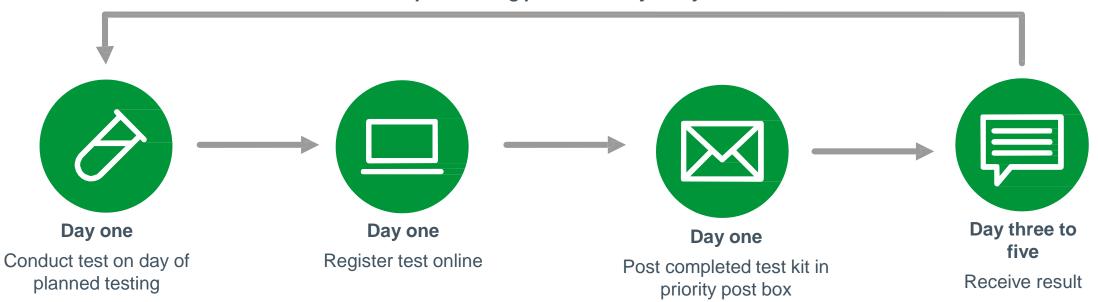
Weekly retesting



Weekly retesting

After you have completed your first round of testing, care at home workers should continue to test on the same day each week between Thursday and Sunday. If you have tested positive, you do not need to retest for 90 days.

Repeat testing process every 7 days



/ return home and inform your line manager

Where to go for help

Where to go for more support?



Online: Visiting the homecare testing portal at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested



Instructional videos: Watch instructional videos for how to conduct a test at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1l0jcv37Wzl

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-taking-swab-samples/how-to-use-the-self-swabbing-kit-for-a-combined-throat-and-nose-swab-video



Coronavirus Testing Contact Centre: please call 0300 303 2713

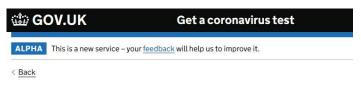
Appendix

Step-by-step guide for care workers to register their kits after completing a test

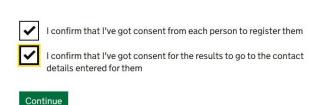


Please refer to slide 24 for initial registration instructions / links

STEP 1: Confirmation of consent



Confirm you have consent



STEP 2: Select other **⊞** GOV.UK Get a coronavirus test ALPHA This is a new service - your feedback will help us to improve it. < Back Which type of organisation are you? Care home **GP** surgery Dental surgery Continue

STEP 3: Enter your 8 digit UON

ú‡ÿ G(o v .uk	Get a coronavirus test
ALPHA	This is a new service – yo	our <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.
< Back		

What's your organisation number?

This is the 8 digit number provided to you by the National Testing Programme. For example 12345678.

▶ What to do if you cannot find your organisation number

Continue



STEP 5: Select staff

STEP 4: Select 'add each person's details one by one'



This is a new service – your feedback will help us to improve it.

Back

Who are you registering?

Non-staff (for example residents or patients)

Staff

Continue

STEP 6: Enter your name





Continue

Individual registration upload – Process Walkthrough

STEP 7: Enter your date of birth



STEP 8: Enter your gender

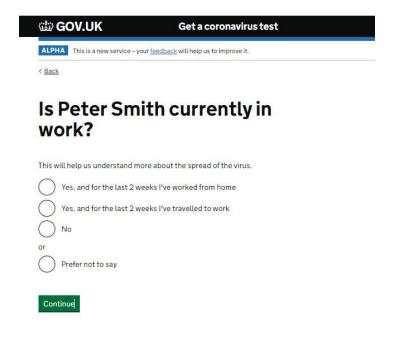


STEP 9: Enter your ethnicity. You can select prefer not to say

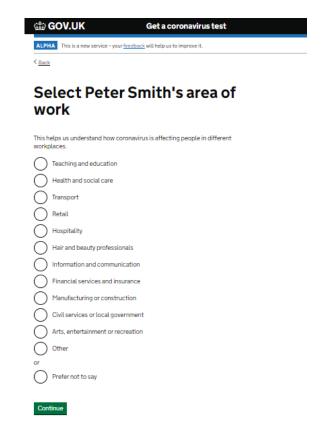
This is a new service – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.
nat is Peter Smith's ethnic oup?
l help us understand how coronavirus is affecting people of different backgrounds.
Asian or Asian British ncludes any Asian background, for example, Bangladeshi, Chinese. ndian, Pakistani
Black, African, Black British or Caribbean ncludes any Black background
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups ncludes any Mixed background
White ncludes any White background
Another ethnic group ncludes any other ethnic group, for example, Arab
Prefer not to say



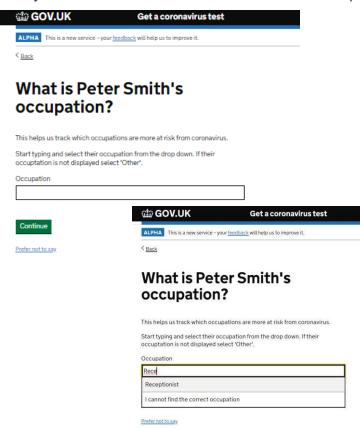
STEP 10: Enter your work status.



STEP 11: Enter your area of work.

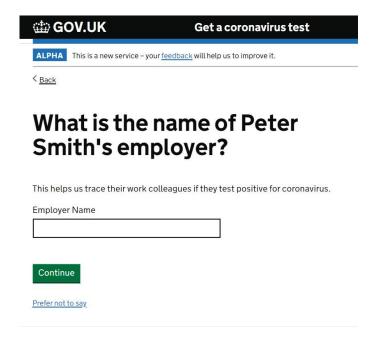


STEP 12: Enter your occupation. You must select an option from drop down menu but you can say that you are unable to find the correct occupation





STEP 13: Enter the name of your employer.



STEP 14: Enter the country you live in.

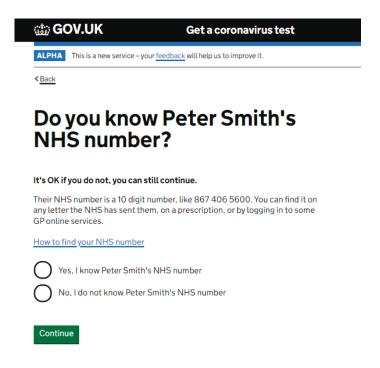


STEP 15: Enter your home postcode. An additional question will ask for the first line of your address.

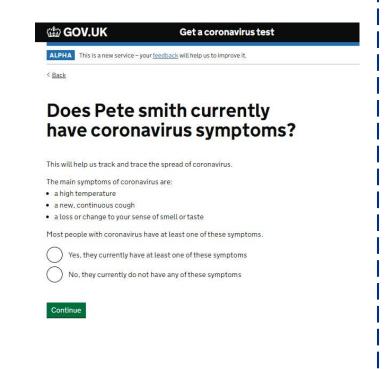




STEP 16: Enter your NHS number, if you know it. This is used to link the result to your patient record.



STEP 17: Select Yes or No depending on whether you have symptoms.



STEP 18: Enter date of onset of symptoms, if you see this page.

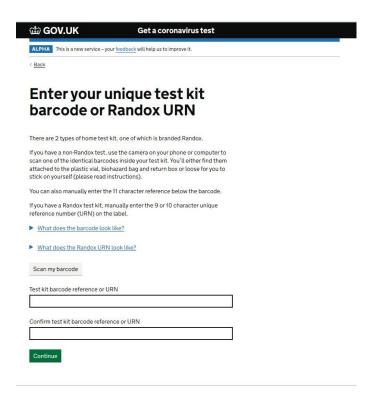
∰ GOV.UK	Get a coronavirus test				
ALPHA This is a new service – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.					
< <u>Back</u>					

When did Peter Smith's symptoms start?

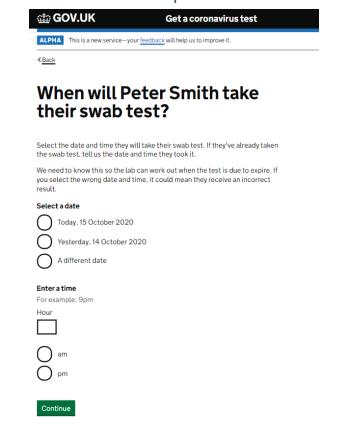
Enter the date. If they cannot remember the exact date, enter the date they think it was, roughly.								
Jse the format DD MM YYYY, for example 15 4 2020								
Day Month Year								
Continue								



STEP 19: Enter the test kit barcode.



STEP 20: Enter the date and time the test was completed. This date and time can be in the past

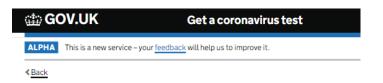


STEP 21: Enter your email address. Results will be sent to this email address.

∰ GOV.UK	Get a coronavirus test
ALPHA This is a new serv	vice – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.
≮ Back	
Enter an e	email address
We'll send their test resu	ult to this email address.
	s not belong to the person being registered, make onsent for their results to go to someone else's email
Email address	
Confirm Email address	



STEP 22: Enter your mobile phone number if you'd like to receive text notification of your result. If you do not have a mobile or do not want to receive a text, select 'No'.



Do you want to add a mobile number?

We'll also send their test result to this mobile phone number.

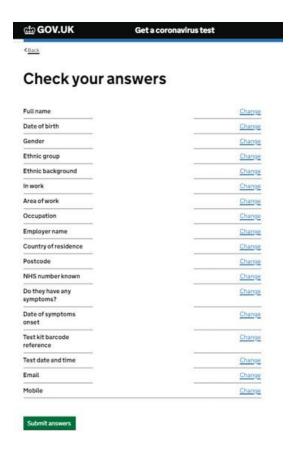
If the mobile phone number does not belong to the person being registered, make sure you have got their consent for their results to go to someone else's mobile phone number.

Yes, I want to add a mobile phone number

No, I do not want to add a mobile phone number

Continue

STEP 23: Check your answers. You are able to change details at this stage





Your test will have now been registered.

The confirmation page also allows you to register more test kits should you need to

Note: You will receive confirmation of registration via email. If you do not receive this, please contact 0300 303 2713 to check that you have registered successfully

