

COVID-19 PCR TESTING FOR SCHOOLS

GPDQ has extensive experience of delivering specialist COVID-19 and testing services for the NHS, local authorities and large private sector organisations including leading private schools.

Our healthcare professionals are here to support schools, teachers, parents and pupils throughout the Coronavirus pandemic and beyond. All services and tests are delivered with clinical guidance to provide reassurance when you need it most.

WHAT TESTS ARE AVAILABLE?

We can test to see if a patient is currently infected with COVID-19 using a PCR Swab Test, which is the standard method deployed within the NHS. Our accredited UK laboratories provide results in 48-72 hours, and all positive tests are notified to Public Health England and followed up by a GP telephone consultation.

WHEN DO I NEED TO TEST?

- Patients who are symptomatic have a fever, persistent cough or loss of smell or taste. If they experience any of these symptoms, they must immediately self-isolate and organise to be tested.
- Patients who are asymptomatic may also need to ascertain whether or not they are carrying the virus, especially if they have been in contact with a symptomatic individual.

HOW CAN I TAKE THE PCR TEST?

We offer a choice of clinician-administered and self-administered testing. Advantages of the former include a greater level of certainty that the sample has been taken correctly.

1. Clinician-administered

- a. School site. We dispatch a clinician to the school site, where multiple samples can be taken efficiently, for example when running large scale routine testing or to manage tracing. This is suitable for asymptomatic patients only.
- b. At home. We operate a nationwide home visiting service to swab patients in the comfort of their own home. This is available for symptomatic as well as asymptomatic patients.
- c. In-clinic. We have a network of clinics in major urban areas where asymptomatic patients can come to be swabbed.

2. Self-administered

We can dispatch a test to the patient's home address for self-administration. Tests dispatched to a home address are sent via royal mail or courier along with detailed instructions for use. Samples are then packaged in the return envelope provided and sent to the laboratory for analysis. This is suitable for both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients.

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CAN YOU TEST PUPILS?

Yes, although samples on younger patients may be more difficult to obtain and we'd recommend swabbing by a clinician if possible.

ARE YOUR TESTS ACCURATE?

These tests are rated on their 'sensitivity' - their ability to identify those with infection, and their 'specificity' or ability to identify those without infection.

The PCR shows a minimum sensitivity of 98% and a specificity of 100%.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Self-administered PCR swab test - £129

Clinician administered PCR swab test – £199

Regular on-site PCR swab testing – price dependent upon requirements

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

FLU VACCINATIONS

Many local authorities are not offering the vaccine until the end of the Autumn term. If you would like to organise this earlier and ensure that your school is protected against flu, we can vaccinate both staff and pupils.

GP AND NURSE SERVICES

Keeping your staff well is a priority. Our remote and in-person GP service offers rapid access to experienced doctors to deal with a wide range of ailments, and has been specifically designed to deal with issues arising from COVID-19. This includes risk assessments, antibody testing and mental health conditions. Schools may choose to extend this service to pupils and parents.

GPDQ also offers on-site school nurse provision.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Government advice can be open to interpretation and you may find yourself fielding medical questions from parents or dealing with staff occupational health issues. We're here to help. We have an experienced occupational health team, and our clinicians are on hand to advise you on any aspect of leading your school through the pandemic.

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