

Community surge testing in specified postcode areas of Bradley Stoke, Patchway and Little Stoke

Q: Who can get a community surge test?

A: Anyone who lives, works, or has a support bubble in the following postcodes:

- BS32 0
- BS32 8
- BS32 9
- BS34 5
- BS34 6

You must be aged 16 or over and have no coronavirus symptoms.

Q: How can I get a community surge test?

A: You can get a community surge test by visiting either of our community surge testing sites, also known as mobile testing units (MTUs).

The community surge testing sites are:

- Parkway Station North Park and Ride, Hunts Ground Road, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8PU
- Coach Park at The Mall Cribbs Causeway, Highwood Rd, Patchway, BS34 5SP

Open from 9am to 6pm.

Alternatively, you can collect a test from one of our collect and drop centres, complete the test at home, and return it to the same place.

The collect and drop centres are:

- Patchway Community Centre, Rodway Road, Patchway, BS34 5PF
- The Community Hall, Little Stoke Lane, BS34 6HR
- Baileys Court Activity Centre, Bailey Court Road, Bradley Stoke BS32 8BH
- Coniston Community Centre, The Parade, Coniston Rd, Patchway BS34 5LP
- Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, BS32 8HL
(Closed for a day on Friday 5 March)

Open from 9am to 5pm.

Q: Can I get a community surge test if I have coronavirus symptoms?

A: No. If you have symptoms, you must self-isolate immediately and book a test on the NHS website. This can be done online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119

Q: We are in a nearby postcode, can we get tested?

A: No. This community surge testing programme is only for people without symptoms who live in the specified postcode sectors or travel into the area for work or to visit someone they are in a support bubble with. If you have symptoms, you must book a test via the national booking portal either online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

Q: Do the postcodes reflect where you've found cases of the variant of concern?

A: Postcode sectors announced are the areas eligible for additional testing of people without symptoms, but this does not mean that the variant is necessarily present in that postcode sector.

Q: Where have the cases of the variant of concern been discovered?

A: We will not be revealing the location of any cases of the variant of concern, as it could lead to the identification of individuals.

Q: I went for a walk with a friend who lives in this postcode. Do I need to get a test as well?

A: No. Only people living or working within the selected postcode areas are being encouraged to get a test.

Q: When do the collect and drop centres end?

A: The last day in which you can collect a test from one of the centres is Sunday 14 March 2021. All tests must be returned by no later than Tuesday 16 March.

Q: Do I need to book?

A: You do not need to book an appointment and can simply turn up. We advise that people try to collect their kits at least half an hour before the site closes and drop them back off the same day where possible. Otherwise, they must be returned within five days of doing the swab test.

Q: Do I need to bring any identification with me?

A: No, you do not need to bring any identification. These new sites are only for people without Covid-19 symptoms and who live or work in the designated postcode sectors. If you are booking a normal test because you have symptoms of Covid-19, you should do so through the national booking portal by visiting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or calling 119. These test sites do require identification.

Q: Can I post the completed test in a Royal Mail postbox or through a letterbox?

A: No, completed test kits should be put into the sealed box provided and returned to the location it was collected from.

Q: Can I collect a test on behalf of someone else?

A: Yes. We recognise that not everyone is able to leave their home to collect a test. The collect and drop centres are for people to collect tests for themselves, their family or for someone who is not able to leave the home.

Q: Can I collect some tests for my employees?

A: Yes. If your business is located within one of the postcode sectors, you can collect tests for your employees. This will be limited to a maximum of 20 test kits per business. For large businesses, we would encourage employees to take a test at either of our two additional community surge testing sites.

Q: Where do I take my test?

A: Once you collect your test, please take it home with you to complete. It's much safer to do this at home rather than out and about or in your car.

Q: How do I do a self-swab?

A: For guidance on how to do a self-swab, watch this instructional video from the Department of Health and Social Care: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=8lo6g-TYZc&feature=youtu.be>

Q: When do I need to return my completed test back to the site?

A: We're asking people to return their completed tests on the same day if they can. If you are unable to return your test on the same day, you must do so within five days of doing the swab test.

Q: I can't access a testing site or collect and drop centre. What do I do?

A: We expect most people who are eligible to be able to take a test through the new community surge testing sites or via our collect and drop centre.

If you cannot access any of the centres yourself, ask a relative or friend to collect a test for you. Once you have completed the test, they can then return it for you. Please take extra precautions such as asking them to wear PPE and keep their distance when dropping off and picking up the test.

Q: Do I have to register my test?

A: Yes. Once you've collected your test and taken it back to your home to complete, please ensure you go to www.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit and complete the form online within 24 hours. You will need to scan or manually enter your barcode and the test centre code for the community surge testing site you visited.

These are:

- Stoke Gifford Parkway Park & Ride – Centre code: WDO
- The Mall Coach Park – Centre code: WDP

You can also ring 119 and do this over the phone.

Q: I have lost or spoiled my testing kit. Can I have another?

A: Yes, you can collect another kit.

Q: I have still got a test kit from the last surge testing programme, can I use it for this?

A: Any test kits that have not been returned from the surge testing programme that took place between 7 and 21 February should be disposed of in your black bin as normal waste.

If kits have been opened, the contents should be packed back up in the kit as if they were going to be sent back and the whole pack put into your black bin.

Do not break the pack down and sort into recyclables.

If you wish to take part in this new surge testing programme, please visit one of the two community surge testing sites or collect a kit from one of the collect and drop centres.

Q: When will the community surge testing sites close?

A: Community surge testing sites are currently scheduled to end at 6pm on Sunday 14 March.

Q: Do I need to wear a face covering at the site?

A: Yes, you should wear a face covering unless exempt.

There are social distancing measures at the test sites.

Q: Are these sites walk-up or drive-through?

A: Both community surge testing sites accommodate either walk-up or drive-through testing services.

Q: Why aren't there more community surge testing sites closer to me?

A: Community surge testing sites are set up by the Department of Health and Social Care and need particular site arrangements. There are a limited number of these available. The

collect and drop centres ensure a wider spread of testing services across the designated postcode area.

Q: What test will I have if I visit the site?

A: Standard PCR tests will be used at these testing sites. These types of tests involve a swab of the nose and throat and are sent off to laboratories to be analysed.

Q: Do the sites offer assisted testing?

A: No. Whether you visit a community surge testing site or pick up a test kit from a collect and drop centre, you will have to take the test yourself. The test kit will contain instructions on how to do this. You can also watch this instructional video from the Department of Health and Social Care: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=8lo6g-TYZ-c&feature=youtu.be>

Q: Why aren't you using lateral flow (rapid) tests?

A: PCR testing allows public health agencies to carry out an important process called genomic sequencing. Genomic sequencing is the process of testing a sample of the virus to map its genetic sequence. This helps public health agencies to monitor and understand the evolution of new Covid-19 variants and respond accordingly.

Q: If I tested positive as part of the surge testing do I have to go back for another test?

A: If you have a Covid-19 test as part of our community surge testing programme and receive a positive result, you do not need to go for another surge test.

Q: If I test positive through lateral flow "rapid" testing should I take part in the surge testing?

A: No. If you have tested positive through lateral flow "rapid" testing you will need to book a PCR test through the national booking system: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Q: What should I do if I get a message to say my test result is void?

A: You will need to take another surge test before 6pm on Sunday 14 March as the test could not be processed properly to provide a result. Community surge testing sites are open until 6pm on Sunday 14 March, collect and drop centres will close at 5pm on Sunday 14 March.

Q: How and when will people be informed of the results?

A: People will be informed whether they have a positive test result by text or email via NHS Test and Trace. Most people get their result the next day, but it may take up to three days.

Q: How often do we have to get a test?

A: We are asking people aged 16 and over who live in the specific postcode areas to take one test in this one-week period of additional testing.

Q: Does my whole family need to get tested?

A: Provided you live in one of these postcode sectors, are aged 16 and over and have no symptoms of Covid-19, we are encouraging everyone to visit either of our new community surge testing sites or collect and drop centres.

Q: What if I am self-isolating?

A: If you are self-isolating because you've received a positive coronavirus test result, you must continue to follow the isolation guidance and not leave your home for any reason.

Q: Do you have to isolate after having one of these tests?

A: No. You should follow standard guidance and only self-isolate if you test positive, have any symptoms, or are contact traced following contact with someone who tests positive.

Q: An existing test site for people with symptoms is closer to me. Can I go there?

A: No. If you do not have symptoms and live in an area which is eligible, you must use the new asymptomatic community surge testing site which have been set up for this purpose. This is to help keep you safe.

Q: I am in a support bubble with a household in the postcode area. Do I need to get a test as well?

A: Yes, those who are in a support bubble and therefore travel into these areas are eligible for a test.

Q: I work in one of the postcode sectors but live outside of them. Do I need to get a test?

A: Essential workers travelling into these areas are also eligible for a test.

Q: What accessibility to testing is available for disabled people?

A: Our collect and drop centres will be points where people can collect tests for those unable to leave their homes or who have difficulties accessing the sites themselves. Collect and drop instructions will be issued with the testing kits, and tests must be carried out safely in the home.

Q: Why isn't there fast tracking for those with autism or other mental health issues that require reduced waiting time?

A: The best option for those with mental health issues is to utilise the collect and drop centres. This way, the test can be completed in the comfort of your own home, and if you prefer not to leave the house, a household or support bubble member can collect and drop the test for you.

Q: How can deaf users access the service?

A: You do not need to call on the telephone to access the tests. For information on how to receive a test and to find out if you are eligible, please visit www.southglos.gov.uk/surgetesting. A video in British Sign Language about the community surge testing programme will also be available shortly. Please keep an eye on our website for updates.

Q: If you are already having regular lateral flow (rapid) tests for work, do you still have to go for a community surge test?

A: Yes. If you do not have symptoms and live or work in one of the eligible postcode sectors, you are invited to get a community surge PCR test as part of this community surge programme. PCR testing allows public health agencies to carry out an important process called genomic sequencing. This helps public health agencies to monitor and understand the evolution of new COVID-19 variants and respond accordingly.

Q: I've had the vaccine. Do I still need a test?

A: We are offering testing to everyone aged 16 or over – even if you have been vaccinated.

Q: Should I get a test if I tested positive for Covid-19 recently?

A: As the standard Covid-19 PCR test is a very sensitive test which can pick old infection beyond the infectious period, please do not seek a test if you have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days.

Q: I'm shielding. Do I have to visit a site to get a test?

A: No. If you would like to participate in the surge testing, you should ask a relative or trusted friend to collect a test for you from one of the collect and drop centres. Once you have completed the test, they can then return the test for you. Please take extra precautions such as asking them to wear PPE and keep their distance when dropping off and picking up the test.

Q: Can the homeless access the community surge tests?

A: Yes. Anybody who is homeless or sleeping rough can access the community surge tests regardless of postcode.

Q: Has the stay at home guidance changed in South Gloucestershire?

A: No. The guidance remains the same. You can still shop for necessities but please follow the national lockdown guidance. Remember: Hands, Face, Space.

Q: Should I continue to send my children to nursery (or, where eligible, school) in these areas?

A: Yes, you should continue to follow the national lockdown guidance. At the moment, schools and colleges remain open to vulnerable children and children of key workers. Nurseries also remain open. There are no instructions for education settings to close in areas where new variants have been identified.

Q: Can I still access lateral flow (rapid) testing?

A: Yes, if you are an essential worker and you are well you can continue to access rapid testing.

Q: Will schools in the area still return as expected on Monday 8 March?

A: We are not expecting a change in the government plan that all students return to school from Monday 8 March.

We are following the Department for Education guidance and have our own local:

- information about testing
- risk prevention measures
- further safety advice for schools (inside and outside the classroom)

Information on the variant

You can read about Covid-19 variants on GOV.UK: [COVID-19 variants: genomically confirmed case numbers](#)