

Covid-19 update

Key messages

- [Please continue to share information on how to get a test for Covid-19 with your residents](#)
- [Staff work hard to ensure births, deaths and ceremonies are dealt with quickly](#)
- [Another 14 libraries in Gloucestershire will be offering collection services from Monday 20 July.](#)
- If you have questions related to Covid-19 and the council's response please continue to send your them directly to democratic.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) locations until 20 July:

- Stow RFC, Oddington Road, Stow on the Wold, GL54 1JJ
- Stratford Park Leisure Centre, Stroud

17 July 2020

Gloucestershire Covid-19 stats

Total Confirmed Cases¹ - **1,839**

Cheltenham - **427**

Cotswold - **202**

Forest of Dean - **162**

Gloucester - **536**

Stroud - **258**

Tewkesbury - **254**

Deaths in NHS Trusts² - **229**

Deaths in all settings that occurred up to 3 July but were registered up to 11 July³ - **579**

Deaths in care homes^{4 5} - **226**

National updates

[Face coverings to be mandatory in shops and supermarkets from 24 July](#)

[Government acts to protect jobs in every part of the UK](#)

[Types and uses of coronavirus tests](#)

[Largest testing programme for coronavirus publishes its initial findings](#)

[Coronavirus: planning update on cultural venues and holiday parks](#)

[Coronavirus: disposing of waste](#)

Key links

[National Guidance](#)

[General NHS advice](#)

[Latest advice and developments from Gloucestershire NHS](#)

[Gloucestershire's Community Help Hub](#)

[Council service updates](#)

[Make an adult social care referral](#)

[Business advice and support](#)

[Looking after your wellbeing](#)

[Support for children and families during Covid-19](#)

Your questions answered

To make sure your questions get answered promptly by the team, please continue to send your questions directly to democratic.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk

How are Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) deployed?

There are currently a pool of over 20 Mobile Testing Units that cover the south west region. Their deployment is controlled by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and managed through regional MTU meetings currently held on Monday and Thursday every week. At this meeting, representatives from each Local Resilience Forum (LRF) or Health Protection Board (HPB) will suggest sites to host an MTU or MTUs located in their area.

The schedule is set for just few days at a time to allow a more agile approach to deployment based on what is happening across the region, although often MTUs

can end up remaining on sites for a few days or sometimes weeks. DHSC check the regional schedule then add the locations to the public-facing booking portal, enabling tests to be booked by the public. Sometimes units need to go into “reserve” which is a standby period allowing the crews to rest but be available in an emergency. The units are currently staffed by military personnel but DHSC will be reviewing this in the future.

The LRF or HPB representatives collate the upcoming deployments for their areas, as well as the detail of testing figures supplied by the DHSC representative to ensure an accurate picture of all Pillar 2 testing undertaken in the locality. The Mobile Testing Units can be placed to help increase access to testing which has been our local approach, but they can also be deployed in an outbreak situation. So far we have not needed to do this in Gloucestershire because our numbers have remained low for several weeks, but we monitor this daily so that we could ask an MTU to be redeployed if we needed to do this. We would also communicate to the public and work with the Covid-19 Engagement Board if we thought there was an increase of cases that would mean we would want more people to get tested.

How do volunteers, who have been supporting the alleviation of Covid-19, access testing and how quickly can this be undertaken?

It is fantastic that the community and volunteers in Gloucestershire continue to support the response to Covid-19 through supporting those self-isolating. The best method to prevent the spread of Covid-19 remains good hand hygiene and maintaining at least 2m social distance wherever possible. There should be very few volunteering activities where these simple measures cannot be followed. The latest guidance is available on the [Government website](#)

If someone is self-isolating because of Covid-19 symptoms, and/or has had a positive test for Covid-19 there is guidance available [here](#). A key section within this is called “While you are self-isolating, make sure you do the following things”. This contains information about how people should self-isolate and includes guidance on how people should access support from friend, family, or non-family members (e.g. volunteers).

Testing is available in England for anyone with Covid-19 symptoms. So volunteers in the community can access this quickly and easily either by dialling 119 if they do not have the internet, or going to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

The advice is currently that testing of people without symptoms is only recommended in very specific situation where people are very vulnerable and/or at high risk of the effects of Covid-19 (e.g. in care homes). Routine testing in other circumstances is not recommended. The following FAQs may help explain this.

Swab (PCR) Tests for People With Symptoms (Symptomatic)

Where can I get a test?

- If you have the symptoms above of Covid-19, anyone in England can now get a test by visiting [this website](#) or by dialling 119.

What will the Swab/PCR test tell me?

- The swab or PCR test will confirm if an individual who is showing symptoms of the virus currently has it.
- It will not confirm whether they have had it and have now recovered.
- Like any diagnostic test however, there is always the small possibility of a false negative (which means the test says you are negative and you do in fact have the virus) or a false positive result (which says you have the virus when you do not).

If I test negative, and then later I develop symptoms, can I get tested again?

- If you start to get coronavirus symptoms, your employer may refer you again to be tested or you can book a test yourself via the self-referral portal.
- Repeat testing of people with no symptoms is not routinely recommended.

When should I be tested?

- You should be tested in the first three days of coronavirus symptoms appearing, although testing is considered effective up until day five.
- No testing should be undertaken after day five, unless it's for a specific reason which will be agreed on a case by case basis by locally. This is because the test is considered most accurate in the first three days of symptoms.

Testing if you have no symptoms

Can I get tested if I don't have symptoms?

- The test is most effective for those who are experiencing coronavirus symptoms. It only checks if you have coronavirus right now. This is why government testing website (link above) only allows you to access testing if you have symptoms.
- We are rapidly building and analysing the evidence around the benefits and timescales of testing of people with no symptoms (screening). There is no evidence or guidance from Public Health England or other agencies on the

best frequency for asymptomatic testing in any other circumstances and a negative test could provide false reassurance.

- So, you can only get a test for Covid-19 infection if you do not have symptoms in a very limited number of circumstances. Presently, we would only expect targeted repeat testing/screening where there are outbreaks and/or evidence of sustained transmission in high risk settings such as hospitals and care homes.

If I am asymptomatic and test negative, does this mean I don't have the virus?

- A positive result from an asymptomatic test is highly likely to be accurate, whilst a negative one is much less so. If you are asymptomatic, the test can confirm you have the virus, but cannot confirm that you do not have it.

If you test negative but go on to develop symptoms, you should immediately follow the national guidance.

¹ The above data reflects nationally published data [available here](#).

² This section contains information on deaths of patients who have died in hospitals in Gloucestershire and had tested positive for Covid-19 at time of death or where Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. All deaths are recorded against the date of death rather than the date the deaths were announced. It is based on national NHS data [published here](#).

³ Weekly death figures provide provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales for which data are available. From 31 March 2020 these figures also show the number of deaths involving coronavirus (Covid-19), based on any mention of Covid-19 on the death certificate. Figures by place of death may differ to previously published figures due to improvements in the way we code place of death. This figure does not include deaths of those resident outside England and Wales or those records where the place of residence is either missing or not yet fully coded. For this reason counts may differ to published figures when summed. Bank Holidays could affect the number of registrations made within those weeks.

⁴ Care homes vary in size and in the characteristics of their residents. Outbreak data is also being reported publicly here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/covid-19-number-of-outbreaks-in-care-homes-management-information>. The figures here are slightly lower than our local figures due to a time lag. The number of cases (confirmed or suspected) has not been reported due to limitations in data accuracy which means comparison is not possible. This information is being used for operational purposes. As testing in care homes increases we will review whether adding this information will add additional strategic insight.

⁵ CQC publish figures on deaths where Covid-19 was suspected in the notification from the care home, as well as all cause mortality (since 10 April 2020). It is probable that not all deaths due to Covid-19 will be notified as such, conversely Covid-19 may be mentioned but not have been a contributory factor in a death). While CQC numbers are more comprehensive than local reporting, they are not currently reported by district council.