

Which Covid-19 test should be taken when? Quick guide for Early Years Settings
Correct as of 28/04/2021

Person (child, parent or staff) has symptoms which might be Covid-19	→	Takes PCR test (NB Not a Rapid Test)	→	PCR result is positive No further testing needed	→	Stays away from setting until their self-isolation period is completed <u>and</u> they are feeling well	→	Returns to setting
Person has symptoms which might be Covid-19	→	Takes PCR test (NB Not a Rapid Test)	→	PCR result is negative No further testing needed	→	Stays away from setting until they are feeling well	→	Returns to setting
Person self-isolating, as a contact of someone who has Covid-19, develops symptoms	→	Takes PCR test (NB Not a Rapid Test)	→	PCR result is positive No further testing needed.	→	Stays away from setting until their self-isolation period is completed <u>and</u> they are feeling well	→	Returns to setting
Person is self-isolating as a contact of someone who has Covid-19, does not have symptoms	→	Takes PCR test (NB Not a Rapid Test)	→	PCR result is negative No further testing needed.	→	Stays away from setting until self-isolation period is completed	→	Returns to setting
Person with no symptoms takes a routine Lateral Flow Test (Rapid Test)	→	LFT result is positive Person, household and contacts self-isolate	→	Takes PCR test within 2 days (NB Not a Rapid Test)	→	PCR result is positive No further testing needed	→	Stays away from setting until self-isolation period is completed <u>and</u> they are feeling well
Person with no symptoms takes a routine Lateral Flow Test (Rapid Test)	→	LFT result is positive Person, household and contacts self-isolate	→	Takes PCR test within 2 days (NB Not a Rapid Test)	→	PCR result is negative Person, household and contacts can stop isolating	→	Returns to setting
Person with no symptoms takes a routine Lateral Flow Test (Rapid Test)	→	LFT result is negative	→	Returns to setting				

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Rapid Lateral Flow Test

- A Rapid Lateral Flow Test detects proteins called antigens produced by the virus
- It is only used to detect the presence of Covid-19 antigens in the body when there are **no symptoms** of Covid-19.
- It can be done at home using a Rapid Home Self-Test kit or at a community test site. The result of the test is obtained in 30 minutes.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test

- A Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test detects the genetic code of the virus (RNA) in the body. RNA stands for ribonucleic acid.
- It is mainly used to confirm whether someone who has Covid-19 symptoms is infected with the virus. Close contacts of people who have tested positive for COVID 19 are now able to take a PCR test. If the test is negative, you must continue to isolate for the full 10 days as you could still become infectious.
- It is done at a Covid-19 testing centre, or a home self-test kit and the sample is sent away for analysis. Turnaround time is generally 1 -2 days.

Isolation period

- This is 10 full days, counting the positive test or onset of symptoms as day 0.

Feeling well

- Feeling physically well with no fever or high temperature for 48 hours.

Symptoms of Covid-19

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- Continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss or change in taste or smell

For further information on testing visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>