

A new walk-through coronavirus testing facility is to open on the car park behind the County Offices, off Busher Walk in Kendal. Our Community Team will be informing local residents and businesses prior to the site being built on Monday 7 December.

Testing at the new site is expected to begin on Tuesday 8 December. Testing is available for everyone, with additional support for vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.

The testing site is part of the Government's UK-wide drive to improve the accessibility of coronavirus testing for communities. Anyone with coronavirus symptoms, however mild, can get a free swab test that takes less than a minute. Tests should be booked or ordered as soon as symptoms begin at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119 and people being tested can expect their result the next day. Home test kits can also be ordered by people who cannot get to a test site.

Those being tested will be required to follow public health measures, including social distancing, not travelling by taxi or public transport, practising good personal hygiene and wearing a face covering throughout (including travelling to and from the testing centre).

Anyone attending an appointment at the walk-through testing site will be provided with guidance on getting to and from the test site safely.

Anyone testing positive for the virus in England will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help them track their contacts. This will help people to identify who they may have been in close contact with, protecting others from further transmission. Close contacts of those testing positive will also hear from NHS Test and Trace, advising them to stay at home for 14 days to prevent them from unknowingly spreading the virus. They will be advised to also book a test if they develop symptoms.

Testing for COVID-19 is available to anybody in Cumbria at a range of locations. Details are available online at <https://northcumbriaccg.nhs.uk/covidtesting>, including dates of the Mobile Testing Units which continue to operate across the county.

Below are some FAQs which you may find useful, particularly if you are contacting your local residents.

## **Kendal Local Testing Site – FAQs**

### **What is a Local Testing Site?**

A local testing site is an accessible walk through site where people can come and get tested for COVID-19.

### **Can anyone turn up for a test?**

No. All tests must be booked in advance. If you don't have a booking you will be turned away. You must go through the process to book an appointment <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>. You can also Call 119 if you have problems using the internet (line open 7am - 11pm). The national contact number to

book a test is: 0800 915 9965. If people turn up without a booking they will be turned away.

**Is this site in addition to the mobile testing units?**

This is a new site. Once this and other Cumbria sites are up and running, Cumbria Council will look to review where mobile testing units (MTUs) are placed around the county to maximise access to testing for everyone in Cumbria. This may mean that the MTU that has been stationed at Kendal Rugby Club will stop. MTUs are also more likely to have to stop working because of bad weather. The new testing site provides an indoor facility more suitable for winter weather.

**When will the testing site be open?**

The operating hours of the site will initially be 8am to 8pm, 7 days per week.

**How many people do we expect to come for test?**

The number of people booking a test will vary depending on how much COVID is circulating in the community. It could possibly be up to 15 people per hour.

**When will the site start?**

The site will open with a low capacity on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Work to build the site will start 7<sup>th</sup> December. This will involve bring in temporary buildings and equipment and lowering them into place.

**How long is it going to be there?**

The site will be in place for 6 months initially.

**How will the site be powered?**

Low-noise electricity generators will be used.

**How will the site be lit?**

There will be temporary lighting positioned around the site. Lighting will be positioned sympathetically to minimise glare toward surrounding properties.

**Is there an increased risk caused by having people with COVID symptoms walking around the area?**

This is unlikely for the following reasons:

- Every street will have people walking down it who may have COVID, including those who have COVID but do not have symptoms.
- Anyone who books a test will be advised to wear a facemask while travelling to and from the site. This will reduce the risk.

Transmission of COVID is more likely to occur indoors than outdoors.

Currently, around 90% of South Lakeland residents who have a COVID test come back negative, so we only expect around 1 in 10 people attending for a test to actually have active COVID infection.

