

Testing for COVID:19

There are 2 main COVID-19 tests:

- PCR tests – mainly for people with symptoms, they're sent to a lab to be checked and you get the result within a day or two
- rapid lateral flow tests – only for people who do not have symptoms, they give a result in 30 minutes using a device similar to a pregnancy test

Whilst we understand that it is often easier to complete a LFT test if you or a member of your household is symptomatic, it is important that a more sensitive PCR test is taken, as this provides a more reliable indicator of any COVID infection.

The LFT test identifies infection for a short window of peak infectiousness, whereas the PCR test can identify COVID infection at a lower threshold.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

With young children we are aware that other symptoms such as hayfever type symptoms, sickness, stomach pains, sore throat, headache can be the first indication of COVID.