

Detected Covid19 Test

You have had a positive detection of COVID-19 in your recent test with us. We know this is likely to be an unexpected, alarming, and potentially confusing time. We at TAC hope that this information sheet may help provide some answers and reassurance.

Background

We know from our ongoing study that 80% of our clientele testing positive remain asymptomatic and this is reflected in our testing and reporting strategy. Unfortunately, though asymptomatic (without significant symptoms) more than 20% of this group of individuals will still infect others.

PCR testing is a gold standard test and if you have been positive it is almost without exception because virus was present in your sample. Part of the process we follow to pass your results on to public health authorities to allow follow-up and tracing of contacts.

Further Actions

Having had a detected (positive) test you are required to observe a period of isolation for 10 days whether you have symptoms or not.

From 28 September, you could be fined if you do not stay at home and self-isolate following a positive test result for COVID-19 or if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and instructed to self-isolate.

After 10 days, if you still have a temperature you should continue to self-isolate and seek medical advice. You do not need to self-isolate after 10 days if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. See the ending isolation section below for more information.

If you live with others, all other household members need to stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they should contact the NHS and request a test. If the test is negative, they should keep self-isolating for the rest of the 10 days.

If the test is positive, the 10 days restarts from the day after the symptoms started. This will mean self-isolating for more than 10 days overall.

If you have [symptoms](#), try and stay as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important to stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you share a household.

Reduce the spread of infection in your home by washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser, and cover coughs and sneezes.

Consider alerting people who you do not live with and have had close contact within the last 48 hours to let them know you have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19.

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TAC reports all of our detected cases to Public Health for data gathering purposes and the following protocol is in place:

For private test results that are detected (positive):

- All cases with a detected test should seek a further test through the national testing system, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
- The Test and Protect team will then take contact tracing and any other public health action based on the results of this test.

If you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) COVID-19 service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Close personal contacts and members of the same household should also observe a 10 day period of isolation during which time they should not go to work or school

Public health may advise you to have a second confirmatory test and will advise on the need to continue isolation and instigate tracking and tracing based on this result.

As the initial result has demonstrated the presence of the virus TAC would advise continued isolation as above and also exclusion from work for 10 days since the Detected test.

Differences between NHS vs TAC testing

Many of our clients have gone on to get NHS tests in the past. The results of NHS testing have, on occasion, conflicted and led to concern.

The method and reporting of NHS tests are different from ours because:

1. The NHS testing is mainly for symptomatic individuals whereas we have found most of our Detected individuals have minimal or no symptoms.
2. The process of swabbing introduces the largest source of inaccuracy into the testing process so that detection may be dependent upon the thoroughness of the swab taking
3. The goals of NHS testing are to reduce spread, whereas TAC's screening is aimed at prevention of the disease in the tested population who are generally mobilising offshore. As such TAC accept a lower threshold for calling a result Detected .
4. A false negative test is more likely than a false positive test. As such TAC would always act upon the Detected result irrespective of which test this was.



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