

Antigen Testing FAQs

What does this test do?

This test uses a combined throat and nasal swab. To collect your sample, a swab is first inserted into the back of the throat to sweep the throat; and then the same swab is inserted to the nostril to sweep the back of the nasal cavity. There may be slight differences in the procedure depending on the testing provider being used. It takes a few minutes and is mildly uncomfortable for just a few moments.

Why is this test being done?

The test helps to identify pre-symptomatic (before symptoms start) and asymptomatic (those without symptoms at all) acquisition of COVID-19 as early as possible. This enables early self-isolation to help reduce the risk of infection acquisition and transmission for those people regularly working within two metres of each other and where other risk controls are not possible.

Who will be tested?

People who cannot avoid regularly working in close contact within two metres of each other for more than fifteen minutes. This is likely to be on set talent and make-up artists only, but individual requirements will be determined by a risk assessment completed for each production.

Why will others not be tested?

The risks of transmission is considerably lower where 2m social distancing can be maintained and where other risk controls are possible, therefore it has not been deemed appropriate to test all members of staff working on productions.

Where will testing happen?

If you need to take a test, you will be required to come to a specific location for testing, this may depend on the production and you will be advised accordingly.

Who will perform the test?

The test will be performed by a clinical practitioner with specific training to administer the procedure.

Can I administer the test myself?

No. Medical evidence shows that the test is more likely to be performed accurately when performed by trained healthcare staff.

How long does it take to do the test?

The test takes just a few minutes to complete, the overall time estimate per person is 10 - 15 minutes when carried out by a trained clinician. It takes this amount of time because written consent is required before the test is taken and it also takes a few minutes to explain and perform the procedure itself.

What is written consent?

This means signing your name on consent form to say that you are allowing the test to be performed. You will need to do this every time you have a test.

Why do I need to give written consent?

This is a medical test and it is considered good practice for this specific test.

I am under 18 and need to have this test, can I give consent?

No, your legal guardian needs to give consent on your behalf.

How long does it take for the results to come back?

The swab is sent to the lab on the day of the test and the result should be received the next working day.

What are the risks of this test?

Whilst this test is mildly invasive (as it is being put into the nasal cavity) there are no serious side effects of this test. It is mildly uncomfortable for a short time.

Is this test mandatory?

Yes, if you are asked to take the test it is a mandatory requirement. In order to keep all people working in close contact safe, all members of the cohort must be tested.

Will I need to self-isolate between tests?

No. However, we ask everyone, regardless of whether you are being tested or not, to practice good hand hygiene and observe the two metres social distancing guidelines outside of the working environment to help reduce the risk of infection.

When will testing begin?

You will have your first test approximately 48 hours before you proceed to your workplace. You must receive your test result before proceeding to work and should only present for work if your test is negative.

How often will I have a test?

Once per week.

How will I obtain my test result?

If you have a positive result (indicating that you have COVID-19) you will be contacted by the testing provider. You will be guided through your results, outlining what you need to do next and any further support measures you may need, including advice for any members of your household. If you have a negative result, you will be informed of this outcome and you can proceed to the workplace.

Who else will know my test result?

Nobody else will receive your test result.

Who will I need to tell about my test result?

You only need to tell your producer if you receive a positive test result, indicating that you have COVID-19. Verbal communication only will be expected, it does not need to be shared in writing. The producer would not be expected to keep a written record of your result. If you receive a positive test result, then you would be expected to keep a track of your own period of self-isolation. The producer would be expected to inform other members of the close contact cohort in which the individual with a positive test has been allocated, but this will be done anonymously, no personal information will be shared with the group.

What will I be expected to do if I get a positive test result?

In line with the latest Government advice, individuals will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptoms started or for 14 days from when you had the test if you are asymptomatic. Anyone you've been in close contact with will be told to self-isolate for 14 days.

This is because it can take up to 14 days for coronavirus symptoms to appear and a test may return a false positive during this period.

All the latest UK Government advice can be found using the following links:

- [England](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [N. Ireland](#)
- [Wales](#)

Will I be contacted by track and trace or (test and protect in Scotland) if I have a positive result?

Yes, you will be contacted by the Government scheme. Further information can be found using the following links:

- [England](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [N. Ireland](#)
- [Wales](#)

What happens if my colleague has symptoms/ tests positive?

If you are in a close contact cohort with a person who tests positive, you will be informed that another member of the group has tested positive. This individual will not be named. You will be required to self-isolate for 14 days in line with the latest Government advice. This is to protect all members of the close contact cohort and the wider production team.

Now that I am being tested, does that mean that I no longer need use the other risk control measures in place on set?

No. Testing is being administered to those where absolutely necessary as a last resort and does not replace other forms of infection control. All other controls required as part of the risk assessment will need to be adhered to.

Would my ability to work on the production be adversely affected because of a positive test result?

Testing allows early self-isolation if you have acquired COVID-19, to reduce risk to those in contact with your work cohort and your actual household, and allow early access to medical support if needed. Those with a positive result would need to self-isolate for 14 days (if no symptoms were present, and 10 days from when symptoms appeared) and therefore could not work within this time. However, your job prospects within that production and future work should not be foreseeably affected by a positive test result.

How will my data be kept?

All clinical data will be held by the occupational health company providing the test, which will be stored as confidential medical data. The BBC will not have access to this data. The producer (as outlined above) would be aware of positive results verbally only.