

## Testing for children:

Children can get coronavirus (COVID-19), but they seem to get it less often than adults and it's usually less serious.

The main symptoms of coronavirus 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.

Use the 111 online coronavirus service if your child is 5 or over. **Call 111 if they're under 5.** The 111 Service can arrange to test a child under 5 if clinical assessment indicates appropriate.

### **Home Testing kits and appointments at drive through test centres can be booked on-line:**

If you or your child has symptoms of coronavirus, you can ask for a test to check if you have the virus. <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>.

If you live with a child or young person under 16 years old who has coronavirus symptoms, you can ask for a self-swabbing test for them. A young person can apply for a test for themselves from the age of 16.

You cannot use a home test kit on a child under 5 years old. If your child is under 5 and has coronavirus symptoms, call 111.

If your child is aged 5 to 11 years old, they cannot do the test themselves. You (their parent or guardian) must swab test your child. There is guidance and a link to a video tutorial in the testing kit.

Some test sites cannot do tests for children aged 5 to 11. If a test site in your area cannot test children under 12 years old, you'll get a warning when you're booking the test.

Children aged 12 to 15 can swab test themselves or have their parent or guardian swab test them.

If you want a test for a child who is 13 or over, check that they are happy for you to ask for a test for them.

The test can only be done during in the first 5 days of having symptoms and best within first 3 days. The test usually involves taking a swab of the inside of your nose and the back of your throat, using a long cotton bud. The test can only tell you if you currently have Covid-19, not if you have had Covid-19 before.