

Dear Suffolk Employer

Community based testing for your workforce

I am writing to encourage you to play your part in preventing the spread of coronavirus by supporting your workforce to get tested.

With 1 in 3 people with coronavirus not showing any symptoms, it is crucial to do all we can to break the chain of infection and stop workplace outbreaks. By supporting your employees to get tested, you are helping to make them safe and to keep your business going.

New tests (known as lateral flow) are available for all staff who cannot work from home, and do not have coronavirus symptoms. These tests are important to identify positive coronavirus cases within your workforce, ensuring we can work together to support them to isolate at home.

The tests are completely free, with results available by text or email within an hour, giving you, as an employer, extra reassurance that you are minimising the risk of outbreaks in your workplace.

Test centres are available across Suffolk in the following locations:

- **Ipswich Central** Profiles Gym Waterfront, University of Suffolk, 4 University Avenue, Ipswich, IP3 0SF
- **Bury St Edmunds** The STEM Campus, West Suffolk College, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3TB
- **Lowestoft** South Kirkley and Pakefield Football Club, Walmer Road, Lowestoft, NR33 7LE
- **Haverhill** The Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill, CB9 8AR
- **Newmarket** St Etheldreda Parish Centre, 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket, CB8 8LT
- **Felixstowe** Brackenbury Sport Centre, High Road East, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 9JF
- **Ipswich West** Whitton Sport and Community Centre, Whitton Church Lane, Ipswich IP1 6LW
- **Stowmarket** Museum of East Anglian Life, Liffe Way, Stowmarket, IP14 1SL
- **Lowestoft North** Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft NR32 2NH

Additional centres will be opening soon in Ipswich East (16 February), Mildenhall (17 February) and Sudbury (18 February) with more to follow by the end of February. You can find regular updates on centres as they open from www.suffolk.gov.uk/testing

Your employees can take advantage of the nearest centre to their home address if this is more convenient, and bookings can be made in advance with no limit to the numbers that can be tested per business.

We appreciate that, in the current economic climate, you are facing many pressures, but by getting your workforce tested regularly, you will be supporting Suffolk's wider economic recovery.

We are asking employers, wherever possible, to support their workforce to be able to get tested in work time. It is recommended that individuals are tested twice a week, with three to four days between each test.

In addition to the test centres, if you employ **more than 50 people**, you are now able to apply to the government to undertake testing, for those not displaying symptoms, in your own business settings. Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests> This will register your interest for in-house testing through the national team. While you are waiting for a response, please make use of your local test centre in the meantime.

To find out more, and to book an appointment to get tested or to arrange testing for your workforce, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/bookatest Please see the attached employer fact sheet for more details and I would like to encourage you to share the infographic poster with your workplace, which is available to circulate electronically or to print and display.

Thank you for playing your part in preventing the spread of coronavirus in Suffolk.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Keeble
Director of Public Health
Suffolk County Council