



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

POLICY AND STRATEGY

# Test Trace Protect: summary of testing strategy

Explains the testing priorities of Test Trace Protect.

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## Introduction

This is a summary of testing priorities for the next phase as we look ahead to Autumn.

This table covers testing beyond:

- Symptomatic RT-PCR (virus detection) testing, which is already in widespread use across Wales.
- Asymptomatic RT-PCT (virus detection) testing used in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak to support contact tracing and control the spread.

## Tracing

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Category	Sub-category	Nature of testing	Usage	Purpose
Managing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Closed</li></ul>	Asymptomatic RT-PCR (virus	When required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To minimise</li></ul>

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Category	Sub-category	Nature of testing	Usage	Purpose
outbreaks or increased transmission spikes	Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vulnerable Groups</li> <li>Local Communities</li> </ul>	detection) testing		transmission across the wider community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To safeguard business continuity.</li> </ul>

## Health and care services

Category	Sub-category	Nature of testing	Usage	Purpose
Hospital patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency admissions</li> <li>Elective admissions (including day surgery)</li> <li>Outpatients / diagnostic interventions</li> <li>Discharge</li> </ul>	Asymptomatic RT-PCR (virus detection) testing	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To build in safeguards through testing to minimise the risk for patients.</li> <li>To diagnose COVID-19 to help with treatment and care.</li> </ul>
NHS staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare workers</li> </ul>	Asymptomatic RT-PCR	Where additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect and maintain a safe</li> </ul>

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Category	Sub-category	Nature of testing	Usage	Purpose
		(virus detection) testing	available NHS testing capacity allows	<p>working environment for our NHS staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For infection prevention and control measures.</li> <li>• To safeguard business continuity.</li> </ul>
		Antibody testing	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For health surveillance and to understand the spread of the disease within healthcare settings</li> </ul>
<b>Health and care staff (in the community)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary care (incl. GPs, Dental Surgeries and Pharmacies).</li> </ul>	Asymptomatic RT-PCR (virus detection) testing	Pilot amongst an agreed cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To utilise findings in the initial phase to consider a future testing approach.</li> </ul>
		Antibody testing	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For health surveillance and to understand the spread of the disease within healthcare settings in the community.</li> </ul>

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# Vulnerable groups and closed settings

Category	Sub-category	Nature of testing	Usage	Purpose
<b>Care homes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care home staff</li> </ul>	Asymptomatic RT-PCR (virus detection) testing	Fortnightly cycle (to be reviewed in October)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the data a review of the policy of weekly testing of care home staff data was undertaken on 10 August, and as prevalence remains low, testing has been reduced to every 2 weeks. If there are higher prevalence rates in some areas of Wales then the frequency of the testing will be increased.</li> <li>Target outbreak hot spot areas. This could include deploying mobile testing units to test all residents in care homes where an outbreak occurs to support contact tracing and the spread of the disease.</li> </ul>
		Antibody testing	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the use of antibody tests with care homes to support surveillance activity and to further understand the transmission of infection in care home settings.</li> </ul>
<b>Education settings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All education workers</li> </ul>	Antibody testing	Extending current sampling programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on the current testing programme to include a wider sample once schools</li> </ul>

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Category	Sub-category	Nature of testing	Usage	Purpose
	(including support staff working in these settings)			re-open in September. The purpose of this sampling programme is to support surveillance activity and to understand the prevalence of the virus in education settings.

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