

New Covid-19 test centre for East Lothian residents ready to open

A new Covid-19 testing centre aimed at identifying positive cases among people showing no symptoms of the virus will open in Musselburgh on Friday, 30 April.

Almost 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 don't have any of the usual symptoms but can still be infectious and pass on COVID-19 to loved ones, friends and others in the community.

By getting tested – even if they feel fine – people from across East Lothian can help break chains of transmission in their local area.

The new community testing facility, funded by the Scottish Government, located at the former Stoneyhill Community Centre, opens from 12-6pm on Friday, 30 April. It will be open again from 11am-6pm on Saturday. Thereafter the opening hours will be (Tuesday-Saturday) 11am-6pm. No appointment is required.

The address is: **5 Stoneyhill Farm Road, Musselburgh, East Lothian, EH21 6RN**

The facility, which is **open to all East Lothian residents without symptoms**, is expected to stay open for several months and is complemented by the deployment of mobile test units across several local communities. Getting tested is quick and easy and staff are on hand to help those attending.

People can also order free lateral flow home test kits test themselves twice-weekly. [More information is online.](#)

Sharon Saunders, Head of Communities, East Lothian Council:

“The launch of this new facility for the people of East Lothian is another significant step in helping build on progress to suppress the spread of COVID-19 across our communities and move to an even less restrictive way of life.

“It's great news that more and more people have been receiving vaccinations. But the reality is that the COVID-19 does still present a significant risk and, it's possible to have and be spreading the virus without knowing it. Getting tested – even if you've received your vaccination – means you can find out if you are positive, and take immediate action to stop the spread of the virus to others, by self-isolating.

“Please do your bit to help to reduce transmission of the virus.

“We only want people to get tested at this facility if they have no Covid-19 symptoms. This is really important, so if you have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms – a fever (high temperature), a new, continuous cough or loss of taste and/or smell – please book a test immediately at a different location via <https://www.nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect>”

Q&A

What happens at the test?

The facility at Stoneyhill and the mobile units are safe and secure and follow the strictest hygiene and cleaning guidelines. Staff will support and guide you throughout your visit.

When you attend a site please ensure that you are wearing a face covering and continue to follow physical distancing guidance.

The test you are taking is called a lateral flow test. You will be asked to register using your mobile phone. If you don't have a phone, you will be assisted to register.

You will be directed to a booth where you will get instructions on how to take the test. Staff are on hand to help. A swab is put into a tube and taken away by a member of staff to be analysed.

After you have taken the test please return to your home or car and stay there until you receive your test results. Please do not go shopping to carry out any other activities until you receive your test results.

You will receive your results approximately 45 minutes after you take the test.

If you don't have a mobile phone, a member of staff will ask you to wait in a designated area. Please wait here until a member of staff tells you your results.

What happens if the test results are negative?

This would mean that you are not carrying the virus at that time but please continue to follow the public FACTS public health guidance and any other relevant protection measures in place in the local area.

What happens if the test results are positive?

You need to take what is called a PCR test to confirm your positive test results. A PCR test is considered the most accurate test for detection infection. You can arrange this through the NHS Inform website:

Or alternatively by telephoning 0300 303 2713.

You will be advised to attend for a PCR test at the appropriate location for the local area (this will not be Stoneyhill, which is for asymptomatic testing only). In the meantime, you will need to self-isolate other than to attend for your PCR test.

If your PCR test is then positive, you must self-isolate for 10 days from the date you receive the result of your PCR test. NHS Test and Protect will then contact you and ask you to identify any close contacts you may have been in touch with. Everyone in your household and any other close contacts will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of your PCR test.

What happens if the test results are void?

You will need to take what is called a PCR test. A PCR test is considered the most accurate test for detection infection. You can arrange this through the NHS Inform website:

Or alternatively by telephoning 0300 303 2713.

You will be advised to attend for a PCR test at the appropriate location for the local area (this will not be Stoneyhill, which is for asymptomatic testing only). In the meantime, you will need to self-isolate other than to attend for your PCR test.

How can I get tested if I'm not able to visit the facility in Musselburgh?

Mobile test units are currently being deployed in local communities. You can take a rapid test at one of the mobile units. View the current schedule here.

Alternatively, you can also order free lateral flow home test kits test. [More information is online.](#)

What should I do if I do have symptoms of COVID-19?

As the Stoneyhill facility is for asymptomatic testing only, if you have symptoms of COVID make an appointment elsewhere through the NHS Inform website:

[Self-help guide: Access to testing for coronavirus | NHS inform](#)

Or telephone: 0300 303 2713

The phone line is available between 7 am and 11 pm Mon - Sunday

If you have tested positive for COVID, you must self isolate.

If you need general advice (not Health advice), advice on self-isolation support grants, assistance with food or assistance with fuel poverty either:

- Access the Council webpages: [Coronavirus/COVID-19 | East Lothian Council](#)
- Email: publicinformation@eastlothian.gov.uk
- Phone our helpline: 01875 824300

Other helpful telephone numbers:

- East Lothian Council 01620 827827
- 24 hour emergency line 01875 612818
- Emergency Social Work 0800 731 6969

NHS Coronavirus Information