



Department for Environment and Community Services

To all current driver licence holders

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

[Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you as a current licensed private hire or dual driver with South Gloucestershire Council. Firstly, we would like to thank you for all your hard work throughout the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. We know that many of you are transporting patients on essential journeys to vaccination centres, schools, places of worship and many more. It is imperative that you, your family, and customers, remain as safe as possible at this time. We would therefore like to inform you, that our rapid testing programme, which offers quick turnaround Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) for Covid-19, is now open to all hackney carriage and/or private hire drivers who live or work in South Gloucestershire.

We are operating two rapid testing centres: one in Bradley Stoke and one in Kingswood offering quick-turnaround tests to critical workers, those who can't work from home, and residents who live or work in those areas.

#### **What is rapid testing / Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)?**

Rapid testing is a vital tool in helping to break the chain of transmission of the virus. These Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) are for people without symptoms and help detect cases of coronavirus that we would not otherwise know about. Rapid testing is vital as one in three people with coronavirus do not have symptoms. LFT programmes have already identified nearly 15,000 positive cases across England which would have otherwise gone undetected.

If you **do not have symptoms** and would like to book a rapid Covid-19 test at either Bradley Stoke or Kingswood Leisure centres, please visit our website: [Book a Covid-19 rapid test - for people without coronavirus symptoms | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

Rapid testing is different from the tests already available to anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus. People with these symptoms – a new continuous cough, loss of or change in sense of taste or smell, or a high temperature – should continue to self-isolate and book a Covid-19 test at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119. Testing for those with symptoms is available to everyone now and anyone who has symptoms should get tested.

Testing does not replace the need to always remember Hands, Face, Space. The most important thing we can all do to help stop the spread is to stay at home. For full advice on current restrictions visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>.

With regards,

**Shona Darley**  
Programme Lead – Health Protection

**Robert Walsh**  
Head of Safe Strong Communities