

Testing for  
COVID-19



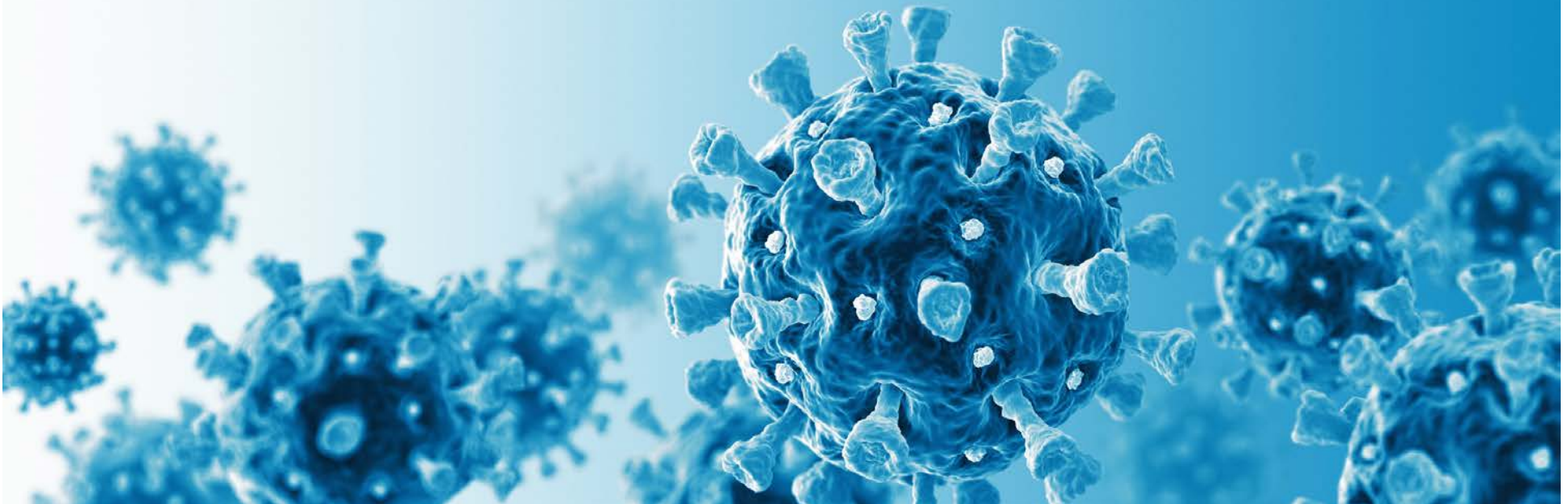
SEND resource pack

Social Story

What does 'Asymptomatic' mean?

# Asymptomatic: What Does it Mean?

'Asymptomatic' is a word you may have heard recently. It is one of the main reasons we now need to do Coronavirus testing in schools. What does it mean?



‘Symptoms’ are the signs of an illness. They are the things we feel when we are unwell. For Coronavirus, the usual symptoms are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to the sense of smell or taste.



If we have these symptoms, we know what to do. We can self-isolate and get a test to see if we have Coronavirus. 'Self-isolate' is when people stay at home and see as few people as possible. This is because Coronavirus moves from person to person so the fewer people we see and come close to, the fewer people will catch Coronavirus.



Staying at home breaks what is called the 'chain of transmission'. This means Coronavirus has been stopped from spreading to anyone else. It can no longer move from person to person.



This is what happens if we show symptoms of Coronavirus. But what does 'Asymptomatic' mean? 'Asymptomatic' means having the virus but it doesn't make people feel unwell, so they don't have symptoms. People who are asymptomatic with Coronavirus will have no high temperature, no new cough and no loss or change to the sense of smell or taste. They may not know they have the virus at all.

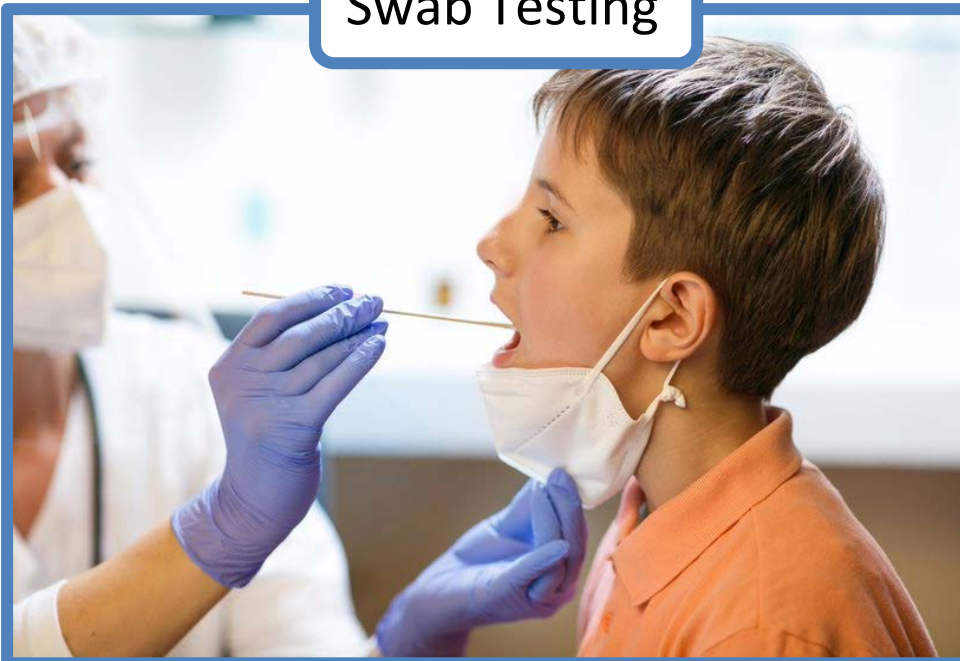


This can be a big problem. Having Coronavirus and not feeling anything does not stop us giving Coronavirus to someone else. This person or people who get it may feel very unwell. But if we don't feel anything and don't know if we have Coronavirus, how do we know when to self-isolate to stop it spreading?

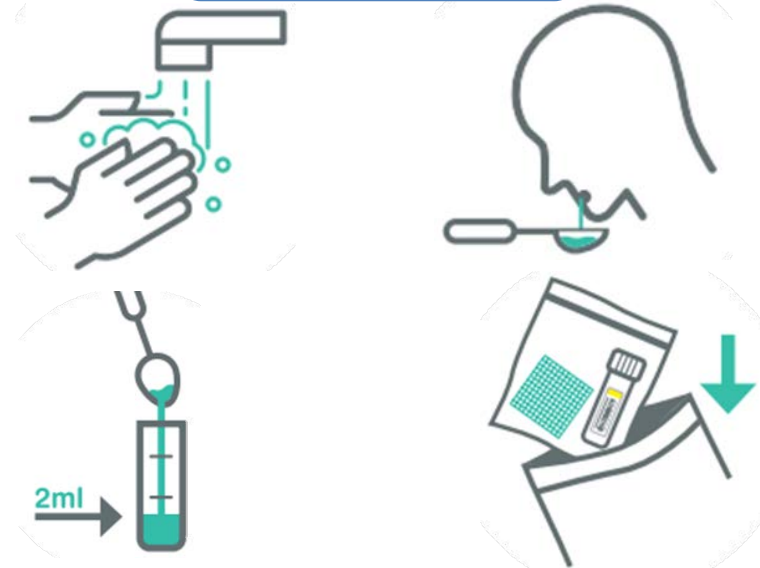


This is when testing is really important. Testing for Coronavirus, even when we don't feel unwell, shows us who is 'asymptomatic' and may pass the virus to others without knowing. Testing helps find people with Coronavirus and lets us know who needs to self-isolate. This stops the virus spreading and making people feel unwell.

Swab Testing



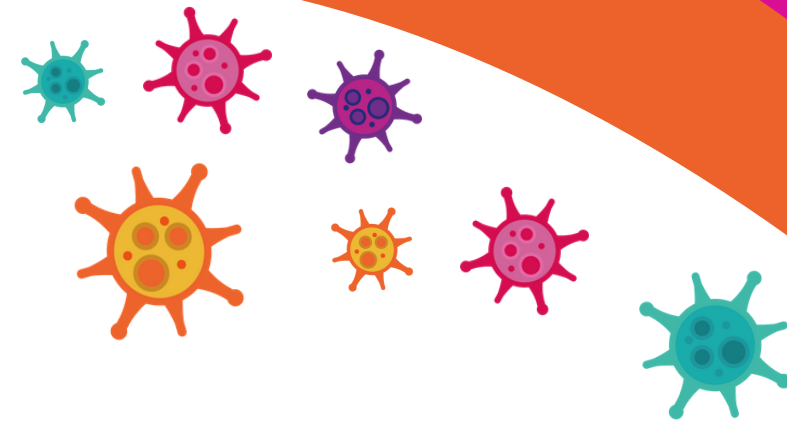
Saliva Testing





Testing at school will help you to know you are safe. The people around you have been tested and we know they will not spread Coronavirus. This will help schools to stay open and help us stop Coronavirus.





Resources co-created with and from an original concept by LifeLab, based at the University of Southampton, Southampton Education School and NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR, or the Department of Health and Social Care.