Frequently Asked Questions

Temporary Testing Facility, Castle Street Car Park, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8TX

Can I access the test centre if I don't live in Merthyr Tydfil?

You can only access the testing centre if you are a resident living anywhere in Merthyr Tydfil.

How do I book a test?

Test bookings need to be made in advance via this link - https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/

Only book an appointment if you are showing signs of Coronavirus symptoms.

- New continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of or change to your normal sense of smell or taste

Symptom checker

You can check for Coronavirus symptoms here -
- https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

I have been told to self-isolate but do not have symptoms, can I book a test?

If you are a contact of a case, and have been told to self-isolate, you must do this for 14 days and should not leave your home for any reason other than to have a test.

If you become symptomatic, you need to book a test as soon as possible and follow the advice given by the healthcare professionals.

If you do not have Coronavirus symptoms, you <u>do not need</u> to be tested unless this has been directed by relevant authority.

Can I just turn up?

Test bookings need to be made in advance via this link - https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/

Do I need to have proof of residency in Merthyr?

This testing centre is just for residents in Merthyr Tydfil so please only book an appointment if you are living in this area.

If you have ID or proof of address for Merthyr Tydfil then please bring it along with you when you attend the testing centre. You may be asked at the testing centre if you are a Merthyr resident.

Do I need to have symptoms to be tested? What are they?

Yes, you only need to book an appointment to be tested if you are showing signs of any of these coronavirus symptoms:

- New continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of or change to your normal sense of smell or taste

Symptom checker

You can check for Coronavirus symptoms here -
- https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

Can I be accompanied for a test?

Yes, if there is someone else within your extended household that is feeling well enough to accompany you.

You should not be accompanied by someone outside your extended household.

I don't feel well enough to drive myself – can I drive to the test centre?

If you do not feel well enough to drive yourself then please do not drive.

You can book a home test online test online - https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test

Is there car parking available at the test centre?

Yes.

I cannot access the test centre as I can't use public transport. How can I get a test?

For the safety of others and the potential risk of spreading the virus into the community, please do not use public transport to get to the testing centre.

You can book a home test online - https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test

What happens at the centre?

On arrival you will be asked to provide your booking details and will be guided through the process by healthcare professionals.

Will it be drive through?

No, this is a drive through facility only

Will I need to swab myself?

Yes, you will be asked to self-swab. You will be completely guided though the process by healthcare professionals at the testing centre.

When and how will I get my result?

Most people get their test results the day after taking the test via text message. Some results might take longer, but you should get them in 72 hours. It is important that you provide the correct mobile contact details for this.

The test centre is here for one for a week, what happens next?

Whilst the temporary testing unit will be in place for at least a week initially, there is not a confirmed length of time that this unit will remain. The COVID situation in Merthyr will continue to be monitored and this will influence decisions on how long the temporary testing unit will be in place.

Am I putting myself at risk of catching COVID by going to the test centre?

No, you can only access testing if you already have symptoms; there is no increased risk as long as you continue to adhere to social distancing and only leave your home to go directly to the testing unit and go straight back home, avoiding public transport. You will be asked to maintain social distancing at the testing centre and also to wear a mask while waiting for your test.

Is this another excuse for a lockdown?

There has been an increase in COVID cases in Merthyr. This testing centre is increasing testing capacity in Merthyr to quickly identify if symptomatic individuals have COVID to allow appropriate isolation to allow for contact tracing and to limit the spread of COVID in the Merthyr community and thereby protect the community.

Getting tested if you are symptomatic is one of a range of measures to get on top of the pandemic to avoid a lockdown.

Should you have any further questions, please write to us to let us know and we will update these FAQs with further information.

- CTM- CTT_news@wales.nhs.uk