COVID-19 VARIANT IN YOUR AREA – PLEASE GET TESTED

Hillingdon Council is working with NHS Test and Trace to test residents in your area for COVID-19 between Monday 24 May and Sunday 6 June.

As part of Public Health England's (PHE) proactive sequencing work, PHE has found at least two cases of the variant first discovered in India in your area.

Everyone aged over 16 living in your home is asked to take a PCR COVID-19 test - even if you have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you do not have symptoms, we ask you to take a PCR test at your nearest testing centre.

Testing will be available seven days a week across the following sites:
- Beck Theatre, Grange Road, Hayes, UB3 2UE
- Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW
- Harlington Young People's Centre, Pinkwell Lane, Hayes, UB3 1PB
- Sipson Community Centre, Sipson Way, Sipson, UB7 0DW

Please book your test in advance at 🖱 www.hillingdon.gov.uk/enhanced-testing.

PCR testing is also available daily for those without symptoms at Topping Lane Car Park at Brunel University, Uxbridge, UB8 2TF, at Heathrow Airport Car Park E2, Eastern Perimeter Road, TW6 2SQ, and every two to three days at the Mobile Testing Unit at Central Avenue Car Park, Hayes. To book visit 🖱 www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119.

If you are unable to go to a testing centre, please contact our Community Hub for a home visit to be arranged. We will visit you at a convenient time, guide you through the testing process, help you with registration and take the test swabs away with us for processing.

> The council's COVID-19 Community Hub offers a range of support for residents who are self-isolating, including financial advice and support, emotional wellbeing and befriending services and food bank referrals for those who meet eligibility criteria. For more information visit 🖱 www.hillingdon.gov.uk/community-support, email @ COVID19hub@hillingdon.gov.uk or call 📞 020 3949 5786 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

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www.hillingdon.gov.uk/enhanced-testing

If you or anyone in your house currently has symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss of or change to sense of smell or taste) they should book a test in the usual way by visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or calling 119.
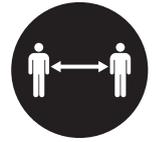
Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, has any symptoms, or is contact-traced following contact with someone who tests positive must self-isolate immediately. Self-isolation means you must not leave your home. You must also not go to work, go shopping, go out for exercise or meet with friends and family.

Why we're asking you to get tested

This testing initiative will help detect cases of COVID-19 in areas where cases of variants of concern have been identified. There is currently no evidence that known variants cause more severe illness, or that the regulated vaccines would not protect against them.

You should continue to follow national guidance, including frequently washing your hands, covering your face in enclosed public spaces and keeping a safe distance from anyone you don't live with.

The more cases of the variants we find, the better chance we have at suppressing them.

Please help to keep your community safe by getting tested so we can find positive cases and keep Hillingdon safe.

For more information and a map of the affected postcodes, please visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/enhanced-testing.

If you do not have internet access and require further information or support, please call 020 3949 5786 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

The importance of being vaccinated

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and remain the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against the virus.

The NHS is encouraging residents to come forward for their vaccine as soon as they are eligible.