

Surge testing to be deployed in Finchley, Barnet

Press release

Additional testing will take place in N3 in Finchley, Barnet, where a confirmed case of the variant first identified in South Africa has been found.



Working in partnership with the local authority, NHS Test and Trace is providing additional testing and genomic sequencing in a targeted area within N3 in Finchley, Barnet, where a confirmed case of the variant first identified in South Africa has been found. Genomic sequencing results indicate that this case is not linked to the cluster identified in South London.

Everybody aged 16 years and over in this area who is contacted and invited to take part is strongly encouraged to take a COVID-19 PCR test, whether they are showing symptoms or not.

Enhanced contact tracing will be used for individuals testing positive with a variant of concern. This is where contact tracers look back over an extended period in order to determine the route of transmission. The confirmed case is self-isolating and their contacts have been identified.

By using PCR testing, positive results can be sent for genomic sequencing at specialist laboratories, helping us to identify variant of concern cases and their spread.

People with symptoms should book a free test online or by phone so they can get tested at a testing site or have a testing kit sent to them at home. Those without symptoms should [visit the local authority website](#) for more information.

People in this area should continue using twice-weekly rapid testing alongside the PCR test as part of surge testing.

Published 14 April 2021