

# Thousands to be offered repeat testing in care homes

- Research will give detailed picture of coronavirus infection in care homes in England and mean care homes can react quickly to outbreaks
- It will track who has the virus, past exposure and infection over time

Approximately 10,000 people in care homes will be given repeat testing as part of a new government study into coronavirus to understand more about its spread in these settings.

The study will take place across over 100 care homes in England with swab tests (known as a PCR test to test if a person currently has the virus) and blood (antibody) tests for all consenting staff and residents over the next year. This will provide reassurance for those living and working in care homes and allow them to react quickly to outbreaks.

It forms part of pillar 4 of the [government's COVID-19 testing strategy](#) to conduct UK-wide surveillance testing to learn more about the spread of the virus.

Minister for Care Helen Whately said:

We know care homes are on the frontline of our fight against coronavirus, with the virus affecting older people more acutely than the general population.

Not only will this study provide important reassurance to thousands of residents and staff, it will also build our understanding of the rate of infection in care homes and add to our knowledge about the risk factors that mean the virus can affect individuals differently.

The results of this study will help inform our future plans for managing the pandemic, to protect the public and those who receive care as we work to carefully return to normality.

The first blood samples took place on Thursday 11 June. This information will help inform future government strategy on the ongoing response to the virus, including lockdown and social distancing measures. The first results from initial participants are expected to be available in July.

The research, carried out in collaboration with DHSC, UCL and NHS Data Foundry, will draw on results from whole care home testing and previous studies to build a more comprehensive picture of how outbreaks play out over time within the same home.

Dr Laura Shallcross of UCL Institute of Health Informatics said:

This study will provide unique insights into the proportion of care home staff and residents who have already been infected with COVID-19, and the proportion with an antibody response. We will also collect detailed information from care homes to try and understand why some care homes have had outbreaks and others have not.

Taken together, this information will be used to inform the pandemic response in care homes, and protect residents and staff from becoming infected with COVID-19 in the future.

Professor Martin Green OBE, Chief Executive, Care England:

Care homes are the front line and this opportunity is welcome. This study is absolutely critical if we are to win the battle against COVID-19.

There is still so much to learn about this virus; why some care homes have tested positive whilst displaying no symptoms or deaths and others have felt the full force of the brutality of this silent killer.

The government's study will help us understand the way in which this virus operates thus enabling us to be better prepared today, tomorrow and in the future.

On top of this surveillance research in care homes, the government has extended whole care home testing to all adult care homes after meeting the target of offering a test to every care home for over-65s and those with dementia in England by 6 June.

Since the launch of whole care home testing, the government has provided test kits to over 12,000 care homes, and are now able to send out and process over 50,000 test kits a day.

- All adult care home providers can access our [online portal](#) to register to receive test kits to care out whole care home testing
- 106 care homes from the Four Seasons Care Homes group in England will be taking part in this study.
- This study will take place over the course of 12 to 18 months
- Staff and residents in the care homes will have 3 rounds of blood tests and 3 rounds of swab testing over a period of 3 to 4 months. A subset of residents who have an antibody response at 3 months will have repeat blood tests at 6 and 12 months to see how long the antibody response lasts

## Tests

- Antibody tests are used to detect antibodies to the virus as a marker of past infection. The test works by taking a blood sample and testing that

sample for the presence of antibodies

- A positive test result indicates that you have previously had the virus and have developed some form of immune response
- In contrast, a swab test, known as a PCR test, aims to find out if you currently have the virus. A positive result does not necessarily indicate that you will go on to develop antibodies to the virus and an immune response. It is possible that around 10% of people who test positive will not develop an immune response

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## [Near miss at Worlingham user worked crossing](#)

News story

Near miss at Worlingham user worked crossing, Suffolk, 8 June 2020.



Google Street View image of Worlingham user worked crossing

At around 13:42 hrs on 8 June 2020, a train travelling between Lowestoft and Ipswich was involved in a near miss with cars at Worlingham user worked crossing. The signaller had given a permission for the vehicles to cross. The incident resulted in no injuries or damage.

We have undertaken a [preliminary examination](#) into the circumstances surrounding this incident. Having assessed the evidence which has been gathered to date, we have decided to publish a [safety digest](#).

The safety digest will be made available on our website in the next few weeks.

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## Weston-Super-Mare restaurateur banned from managing companies

Pop up Kitchen Limited was incorporated in June 2015 and Alan Vinnicombe (65) was appointed a director at the same time.

The company traded as a consultancy for the catering industry before taking over the licence and management of the kitchen at the Blue Ball Inn in Exeter.

By October 2018, however, Pop Up Kitchen entered into insolvency proceedings, which brought the company and the conduct of Alan Vinnicombe to the attention of the Insolvency Service.

According to Alan Vinnicombe, he suspended his directorship of Pop up Kitchen in March 2016 due to personal reasons and a third party took over the management of the company.

However, this was not recorded at Companies House and investigators were unable to verify Alan Vinnicombe's account of what happened as the company records were not properly preserved.

The lack of company records also meant investigators were unable to clarify the company's trading activities, what was the cause of the company's insolvency, Pop up Kitchen's income and expenditure, and what tax the company paid.

On 3 June 2020, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Alan Vinnicombe after he did not dispute that he had caused Pop Up Kitchen to fail to preserve adequate accounting records.

The ban is effective from 24 June 2020 after which the restaurateur is banned for six years from acting as a director or directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Rob Clarke, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

Preserving and maintaining company records is a basic requirement for all directors. The total lack of records in this case has made it impossible for us to determine whether there was other, more serious, misconduct at the company and that is reflected in Alan Vinnicombe's lengthy period of disqualification.

Alan Vinnicombe is from Weston-Super-Mare and his date of birth is January 1955.

The company number for Pop up Kitchen Limited, now known as 09642713, is: 09642713

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of restrictions](#).

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct.](#)

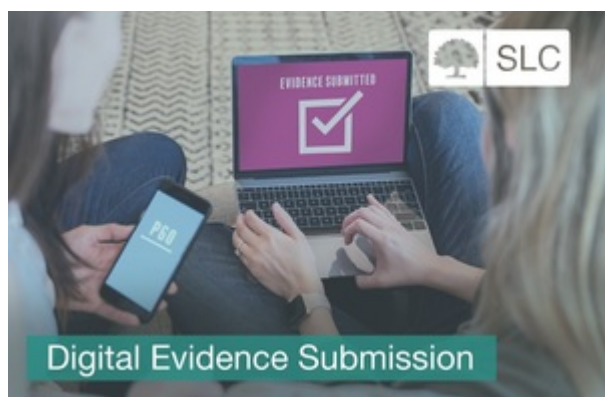
You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

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## [SLC unveils new Digital Evidence Submission service](#)

Press release

New Digital Evidence Submission service launched as students encouraged to apply now



The Student Loans Company has launched a new system that makes it easier to provide supporting evidence for student finance applications, as it urges returning and part time students in England and Wales to apply now.

The Company has introduced Digital Evidence Submission which allows undergraduate full and part time students and their parents and partners, to submit evidence via their online accounts.

The service will also make it easier for students who need additional support to supply evidence. Students applying for Disabled Students' Allowances, Grants for Dependants and full income assessed support can now directly upload evidence rather than having to post it.

The launch of Digital Evidence Submission is one of a number of planned improvements for SLC customers. It will benefit many students who will be able to upload their evidence without leaving home – making the application process faster and more streamlined.

Derek Ross, SLC Executive Director of Operations said: “Our clear message to students is to apply now to ensure funding is in place for the start of term. The arrival of Digital Evidence Submission makes it even easier to get this done, as most evidence can now simply be uploaded from a phone or laptop – without the need for a trip to the post office.”

Students and their parents and partners can submit most evidence required by logging in to their online accounts. They can also follow Student Finance England and Student Finance Wales on Twitter and Facebook for regular information updates.

## **Further information**

### **Digital Evidence Submission**

Digital Evidence Submission is currently available to full time and part time undergraduate students and their parents and partners in England and Wales.

All supporting evidence can be submitted digitally. The only exception is a small number of students who require to post the following:

- ID Evidence – if a student is unable to provide their passport details online and verify them with HMP0, then they will still be required to post original evidence.
- Residency Evidence – students required to provide 3/5-year residency evidence must also post original evidence.

Students, parents and partners can submit digital evidence by logging on to their online accounts and following the instructions provided.

### **Deadlines for student applications**

The deadline for returning students in England and Wales was recently extended to 30 June.

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# **[UK energy statistics: statistical press release – June 2020](#)**

Press release

June 2020 editions of Energy Trends and Energy Prices published.



[Energy Trends](#) and [Energy Prices](#) publications are published today 25 June 2020 by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The publications cover new data for the first quarter of 2020 (January to March). Energy Trends covers statistics on energy production and consumption, in total and by fuel, and provides an analysis of the year on year changes. Energy Prices covers prices to domestic and industrial consumers, prices of oil products and comparisons of international fuel prices.

PDF, 496KB, 14 pages

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