**New local testing site to open in Churchill Ave, Broadmayne, Basildon SS14 3SG**

The Department of Health and Social Care is to open a local testing site in Churchill Avenue car park as part of the Government’s UK-wide drive to increase testing and continue to improve the accessibility of coronavirus testing for local communities.

Testing at the new site will start on 11th November, with appointments made available each day.

The new site is situated so as to be easily accessible without a car. Those being tested will be required to follow public health measures, including social distancing, not travelling by taxi or public transport, practising good personal hygiene and wearing a face covering throughout, including while travelling to and from the testing centre.

Anyone attending an appointment at a walk-through testing will be provided with guidance on getting to and from the test site safely, with additional support for vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.

The testing site is operating on an appointment-only basis and has detailed standard operating procedures which have been signed off by Public Health England to ensure that procedures have health and safety at the forefront. There are a number of measures in place, including:

* Social distancing measures. Those being tested will be required to follow public health measures, including social distancing, not travelling by taxi or public transport, practising good personal hygiene and wearing a face covering throughout (including travelling to and from the testing centre). After booking their tests, test subjects receive the full address and directions to their local testing site.
* Personal Protective Equipment on site. Staff who are required to interact with test subjects wear PPE. The on-site operational staff do not wear PPE as this is not required. These staff do not come into direct contact with any test subjects.
* Cleaning regime. There is a strict cleaning regime for the whole site which means that facilities are cleaned multiple times a day to ensure very high standards of hygiene. Waste is removed on a regular basis.
* Designated areas. The testing areas are segregated from all other areas. All efforts have been made to reduce the disturbances to local communities and only operational staff will be in the designated area of the testing site.

Anyone testing positive for the virus in England will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help them track their contacts. This will help people to identify who they may have been in close contact with, protecting others from further transmission.

Close contacts of those testing positive will also hear from NHS Test and Trace, asking them to stay at home for 14 days to prevent them from unknowingly spreading the virus. They will be advised to also book at test if they develop symptoms.

Testing is available only for those with coronavirus symptoms – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. Anyone with one or more of these symptoms should book a test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) or by calling 119. From the start of the pandemic, testing has been prioritised for the most vulnerable, including patients in clinical settings and care home residents, vital health and care staff and to manage outbreaks.