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Suffolk Resilience Forum news release

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Covid-19 rapid testing centre opens in Newmarket

A Covid-19 rapid testing centre targeting people who unwittingly have the virus and do not show symptoms is to open in Newmarket.

The centre, at St Etheldreda Parish Centre in Exeter Road, Newmarket, opens on Tuesday February 9.

It uses lateral flow testing to identify people who may have coronavirus but who are asymptomatic – crucial in stopping the spread of the virus as the UK vaccination programme is rolled out.

The centre is one of a network being opened across Suffolk and which are available for anyone unable to work from home. Employers are also being urged to encourage their staff to book regular for testing.

The centres are operated on behalf of Suffolk County Council (SCC). They are open seven days a week. Tests should be booked in advance.

Lateral flow testing involves taking a swab from the throat and nose to see whether coronavirus is present in the body.

The process takes around 15 minutes. The person tested will then receive a text message giving the result within an hour.

Anyone giving a positive test will be told to self-isolate and advised on what to do next.

People are being asked to get tested twice a week, three to four days apart, as part of their weekly routine.

Anyone receiving a negative result needs to continue to follow the social distancing guidance as they may only be at the early stages of developing the virus.

This is in case levels of the virus in a person at the earlier test were too low to be detected at that time.

The centres are being run by contractors Commisceo on behalf of SCC through government funding.

Appointments for tests can be made through registering on the booking website <https://commisceo-pcs.shiftpartner.com/> or calling 0333 772 6144.

The centres are only for people not showing symptoms of Covid-19.

Anyone who is showing symptoms, or who may have been in close contact with someone who has, should not visit the centre.

Instead, they should ring 119 or go to the NHS website to book a test at one of the 12 symptomatic testing sites in Suffolk.

For more details about testing go to [the Suffolk County Council](#) website.

VIDEO: Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health for Suffolk, talks about [community testing](#) and why it is so important.

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Notes to editors

Stuart Keeble - interviews

Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health for Suffolk, is available for interview on request. Please contact Mark Langford via email or phone call.

Suffolk Resilience Forum

The information above has been issued on behalf of the Suffolk Resilience Forum. The forum is comprised of the Suffolk's NHS, Emergency and Public Services, working together to keep the county safe.

For more information about the Suffolk Resilience Forum, visit www.suffolkresilience.com