

COVID-19 Vaccine & Testing Information for Gypsy, Roma & Travellers

For more information and advice please contact

The Traveller Movement
020 7607 2002

www.travellermovement.org.uk/covid-19

Friends Families and Travellers
01273 234 777

www.gypsy-traveller.org/health/

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Information sourced from www.gypsy-traveller.org
and www.nhs.uk

Getting the vaccine

What if I'm not registered with a GP?

You do not need to be registered with a GP or to have an NHS number to get the vaccine. You should never be denied the vaccine on this basis. If you are eligible, you should be able to access the vaccine by booking online or by calling 119. If you are not registered with a GP and have any difficulty accessing the vaccine, you can contact the Friends, Families and Travellers helpline on **01273 234 777**.

If you want to register with a GP, you should never be refused registration as a result of no ID or no fixed address. Between now and May 31st 2021, we have a special helpline open to help Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people get registered or update their contact details at a GP. Whether you're having trouble getting registered, getting an appointment or updating your contact details, we're here to help

How can I access both doses of the vaccine when I'm travelling?

The COVID-19 vaccination is given in 2 doses, up to 12 weeks apart. If you are travelling, services may need to offer additional support to ensure that you can access both doses of the vaccine.

If you know, or think that you will not be in the same area for the second dose of the vaccine –

You can contact your local GP, or a local GP surgery and let them know. They can contact health services in a new area that you travel to, to arrange for you to have the 2nd dose.

OR, you can contact 119 and ask for advice around the best way to access the 2nd dose of the vaccine.

If you are travelling and have access to a mobile phone or device, you may want to download the NHS Digital App so that you have access to a summary of your health records, and have information on hand on the type of vaccination dose you had and where this was delivered. www.digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app

If you want to stay in the same area until you have the 2nd dose of the vaccine, and you are living roadside on an unauthorised encampment.

Ask your GP or the health professional giving you the vaccine to write you a letter asking for you to be able to stay in the area. Your GP can find information about this at www.gypsy-traveller.org/health/

If have concerns or experience any problems with this, please contact the Friends, Families and Traveller (FFT) helpline on **01273 234 777**.

Access to Covid-19 testing

The testing process

The first step of taking a test for coronavirus usually involves taking a swab of the nose and the back of the throat, which can be done by the person themselves or by someone else.

Getting your results

How and when you get your results depends on the type of coronavirus test you are taking. Follow the instructions that come with your kit carefully to

ensure you take the right steps for the kit you're using.

If you have any problems accessing testing or following these instructions

Call 119, or contact the Friends, Families and Traveller (FFT) helpline on **01273 234 777**.

Regular rapid coronavirus tests if you do not have symptoms

You can get regular rapid tests if you do not have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

About rapid tests

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still infect others.

Getting tested regularly is the only way to know if you have the virus. If people test positive and self-isolate, it helps stop the virus spreading.

The test for people without coronavirus symptoms is called a rapid lateral flow test.

This usually involves rubbing a long cotton bud (swab) over your tonsils (or where they would have been) and inside your nose.

The tests can give you a result in 30 minutes.

You can do a rapid test at home or at a rapid lateral flow test site.

If you test positive, you and anyone you live with will need to self-isolate.

Who can get regular rapid tests?

Anyone in England who does not have symptoms can now get regular rapid lateral flow tests .

How to get regular rapid tests

You can go to a rapid lateral flow test site to get a rapid test.

If you go to a test site

- You may need an appointment, so check before you go.
- A trained helper might be able to help you do the test.
- You'll get a text or email with the result when it's ready.

Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site:

www.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

People who are nomadic may face some difficulties accessing drive-through or walk-through testing

If you are living on a roadside camp, you may be concerned about taking your live-in vehicle to a drive-in testing centre.

If you live in a large vehicle, you may be concerned that your local drive-through testing site will not be accessible due to height restrictions.

If you live on a site in a rural location or on a boat and do not have access to transport, you may not be able to visit a drive-through or walk-through test site.

If you experience any of these issues, or have any difficulty accessing a test site, please contact the

Friends, Families and Traveller (FFT) helpline on 01273 234 777.

If you have any difficulty reading any of the Test and Trace information, please contact 119.

Get a test to do at home

You can get rapid tests to do at home.

You can collect up to 2 packs of 7 tests from a local pharmacy or test site:

Find a pharmacy where you can collect rapid tests:

www.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

Find a test site where you can collect rapid tests:

www.find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

You can get a pack of 7 tests sent to your home:

www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

If you do tests at home, you will need to report your results online or on the phone.

If you are nomadic, you may not have an address where a home testing kit can be delivered to. If you are unable to access testing centres, and unable to access a home testing kit, please contact the Friends, Families and Traveller (FFT) helpline on 01273 234 777.

If you have any difficulty reading any of the information in a home testing kit, please contact 119.