



Residents urged to 'get tested' after COVID mutation identified in West Lancashire

05 February 2021

Issue: 05

We are aware that the E484K mutation first identified in Liverpool has been detected in West Lancashire. We are working closely with our partners in Public Health England and Lancashire County Council to monitor the situation and we will update information as necessary. Residents should not be unduly alarmed, and there is no evidence this mutation is more transmissible or causes more severe illness. However, additional symptoms of this new mutation may include mild flu or cold symptoms.

Councillor Ian Moran, Leader of West Lancashire Borough Council, said: "Finding cases of the new mutation and reducing the number of people who could be exposed to it is crucial. I urge anyone over 16 within the area who may feel 'under the weather' to go along and get tested.

"If we can identify as many cases as possible through testing and follow the hands, face, space guidance, we've got the best chance of stopping this new mutation before it spreads further."

We urge everyone to continue to follow the national guidance to protect themselves and others. This means staying at home except for essential purposes such as shopping for essential supplies, going to work if you can't do so from home or providing care for others. Wear a face covering when required unless you are exempt, maintain a two-metre space between you and other people and wash your hands often.

How to get tested:

Testing for those with symptoms is available to book between 8am and 8pm every day at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk and at Westgate (close to Sandy Lane Health Centre) in Skelmersdale. There are also mobile testing units open between 10am and 3pm on specific dates in Hesketh Bank, Skelmersdale College and Wrightington. More information

here: <https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/more/emergencies/coronavirus/testing-sites-for-coronavirus.aspx>

Residents should book a test by calling 119 or visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.

Symptom-free testing for front-line workers

Repeated symptom-free testing is available for frontline-workers who cannot work from home or who have caring responsibilities. This rapid testing is available in Skelmersdale, Burscough and Ormskirk on specific days. Find out more

here: <https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/symptom-freetesting>