Guidance for seasonal agricultural workers

COVID-19 test results process

Please read this guidance carefully if you are a seasonal agricultural worker for edible horticulture in Scotland.

This guidance will tell you:

- How to get your test result
- What happens if your test result is negative
- What happens if your test result is positive
- What support is available if you test positive

If you need help, call the RSABI seasonal workers' helpline on 0300 111 4160. This is a helpline specifically for agricultural workers, and has people who speak your language. It is open Monday to Friday: 17:00 – 20:00 and Saturday/Sunday: 10:30 - 14:00.

You can also get help through the NHSinform website or by phoning the Coronavirus National Assistance Helpline on 0800 111 4000 or Textphone on 0800 111 4114.

How to get your test result

Your result will normally be reported within two days after taking your test.

You do not have to report the result to your employer, but we encourage you to do so.

You should make sure you can access the result:

- If you registered your test online using your own mobile phone number, your test result will be sent to your mobile phone by text.

- If you registered your test online using someone else's mobile phone number, or using a shared mobile phone number, your test result will be sent to that mobile phone by text. Other people using that mobile phone may be able to see your results.

- If you registered your test by phone, you will need to call the NHS COVID-19 helpline on 119. They will tell you the test result. This is a Freephone number and lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

If for some reason the test could not be processed by the lab, you will get a "void" result and you should take another test. Speak to your employer – they will provide you with another test.

If you have not received your result 48 hours after taking your test, please call the NHS COVID-19 helpline on 119.

If you need help with understanding the language, your employer can call the NHS helpline for you to arrange for you to speak to an interpreter. If you consent, the interpreter will then give you the result.

If the test result is negative

You do not have to tell your employer the result.

If the negative test was taken on **day two** of self-isolation:

- You should continue to self-isolate.
- You should take another test on day eight.

If the negative test was taken on **day eight** of self-isolation:

- You should continue to self-isolate until the end of the 10 day period.
- On day 11, if you and everyone else in your accommodation has received two negative test results, you can return to normal work and activities.
- You should continue to follow your employer's instructions on social distancing, hygiene and face coverings to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Two negative tests does not mean you are free from infection.
- The symptoms of COVID-19 are:
    - a high temperature,
    - a new continuous cough, and/or
    - a change in sense of smell of taste.
- If you experience any of these symptoms at any point, it is very important that you stop working, self-isolate, and speak to your employer immediately. They will tell you what to do. They can also give you another test, if needed.
- You can find out more about COVID-19 symptoms, and what to do if you have them, on the NHS Inform website.

If the test result is positive

You, and everyone in your accommodation and that you work with, should self-isolate immediately.

The NHS Test and Protect team will contact you:

- The number that will show up on your phone is 0800 030 8012. Please do not ignore calls or texts from this number, as the person calling will give you support and explain what you need to do.

- **You, and everyone in your accommodation and that you work with, should self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test.**

- **NHS Test and Protect will advise if any of your other contacts should self-isolate.**

- **Self-isolating is very important.** You are playing a vital part in efforts to defeat COVID-19, to keep communities and Scotland safe. If an outbreak develops the entire farm may need to be shut down.

- You must not work during the 10 days.

After you have been told the result, the NHS Test and Protect Team, or the local Health Protection Team, may contact your employer and inform them of your result. This is so they can help to stop other people working on the farm from getting sick.

Your employer should provide food and essential supplies during the 10 day self-isolation period.

At the end of day 10, if you show no symptoms of COVID-19, you can return to your normal work and activities (as long as they are not self-isolating).

You should continue to follow your employer's instructions on physical distancing, hygiene and face coverings to prevent the spread of the virus.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature,
- a new continuous cough, and/or
- a change in sense of smell of taste.

If you experience any of these symptoms at any point, it is very important that you stop working, self-isolate, and speak to your employer immediately. They will tell you what to do. They can also give you another test, if needed.

You can find out more about COVID-19 symptoms, and what to do if you have them, on the NHS Inform website.

What support is available if you test positive

You may be eligible for a £500 Self-Isolation Support Grant from the Scottish Government. To be eligible, you must:

- Be a low-income worker
- Work in Scotland
- Be told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Protect, and
- Have a loss of earnings

You can apply for the Self-Isolation Support Grant through the mygov.scot website. To apply, you will need to be registered with HMRC, and you will need to provide:

- A bank statement
- Proof of low-income
- Proof of employment

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- This is a helpline for agricultural workers and has people who speak your language.
- It is open Monday to Friday: 17:00 – 20:00 Saturday / Sunday: 10:30 to 14:00.
- This helpline can also help you if you are worried about accommodation (including overcrowding because of self-isolation), or your work in general.

Leaving self-isolation before the end of the 10 day period

It is very important that you follow the rules around testing and self-isolating.

If you test positive and cannot work because you are self-isolating, you will have access to support, including financial assistance.

There are some limited times where you may be able to leave self-isolation before the end of the 10 day period. These include:

- Returning directly to your home country (but you may need to provide proof of a negative PCR test depending on the country you are travelling to).
- To attend medical treatment, including for mental health.

If you leave the UK and then want to return later in the season, you will have to go through the whole 10 day self-isolation and PCR testing process again when you re-enter the UK.