

Q&A

- **How many cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant VOC202012/02 have been detected in the UK?**

As of 30 January 2021, 105 genomically confirmed cases of the SARS-CoV-2 variant which originated in South Africa (called VOC202012/02 in the UK,) have been identified in the UK.

- **What is being done to detect the variant?**

Laboratory work has begun on the VOC 202012/02 in the UK and is routinely undertaken on all variants under investigation or of concern once samples are available.

- **What further information can you provide us about the cases?**

The identity of the cases is confidential, and we cannot provide any further information.

- **What can I do to prevent further spread?**

The best way to stop the spread of the virus is to wash your hands, wear a face covering and keep your distance from others. Whilst in lockdown, it is important that we also stay at home unless it is absolutely essential to go out.

- **What is a PCR test?**

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample. The sample is tested in a laboratory.

- **I have recently had a PCR/LFD test, do I need another?**

Yes, because this sample is specifically being genome sequenced for the variant.

- **Do I need to self-isolate?**

You only need to self-isolate if you have symptoms, you have tested positive and/or been in contact with someone who has tested positive and been contacted by Test and Trace.

- **How will I receive my results?**

You'll usually get a text or email with your result when it's ready. Most people get their result the next day, but it may take up to 3 days.

- **What should I do if I develop symptoms after the test?**

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new and persistent cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste), however mild, you should self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started.

You should also get a test straight away through the NHS Test and Trace Service by calling 119 or visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.

Once you have received your test result, you should follow the guidance on test results.

- **I am an essential worker, can I go to work whilst awaiting my results?**

Yes. However, if you develop symptoms you must self-isolate.

- **Why are you only testing people aged over 18?**

We are testing as many people as possible over the age of 18 in the local area at this stage. This testing is offered over and above the existing testing strategy and will help us decide if further testing is needed.

- **Who can I contact if I have further questions?**

You can call the Surrey Community Helpline 0300 200 1008 Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm, weekends 11am to 3pm. SMS: 0786 0053 465 for Deaf and hearing impaired residents only (Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm).