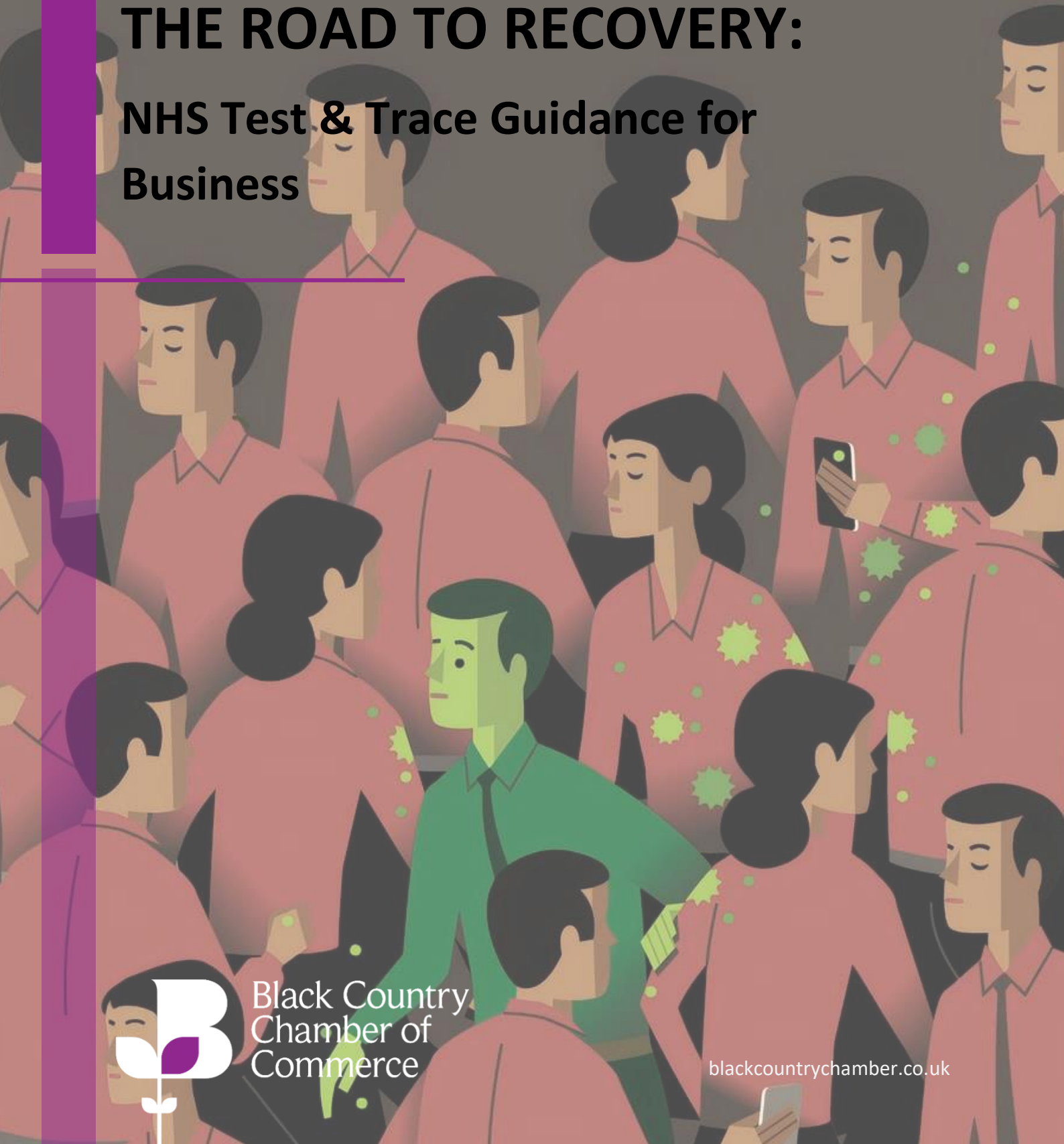


COVID-19

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY:

NHS Test & Trace Guidance for Business



Black Country
Chamber of
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Government launches NHS Test and Trace

On 28 May 2020, the new NHS Test and Trace service launches across England. The service is designed to help identify, contain, and control coronavirus to reduce the spread of the virus within the population.

The NHS Test and Trace service employs more than 25,000 dedicated contact tracing staff working with Public Health England with the capacity to trace the contacts of 10,000 people who test positive for coronavirus per day.

NHS Test and Trace brings together four tools to control the virus:

- **Test:** increasing availability and speed of testing will underpin NHS Test and Trace.
- **Trace:** when someone tests positive for coronavirus the NHS Test and Trace service will use dedicated contact tracing staff, online services and local public health experts to identify any close recent contacts they've had and alert those most at risk of having the virus who need to self-isolate. This will be complemented by the rollout of the NHS Covid-19 App in the coming weeks.
- **Contain:** A national Joint Biosecurity Centre will work with local authorities and public health teams in PHE, including local Directors of Public Health, to identify localised outbreaks and support effective local responses, including plans to quickly deploy testing facilities to particular locations. Local authorities have been supported by £300m of new funding to help local authorities develop their own local outbreak control plans.
- **Enable:** Government to learn more about the virus, including as the science develops, to explore how we could go further in easing infection control measures.

Our Policy Team has summarised that the latest government announcement and what this means for business. All information is correct as of time of publication and we advise all businesses to [Check the relevant pages on gov.uk](#) for the most up-to-date government advice.

What is NHS Test and Trace and how does it work?

The NHS Test and Trace service is a dedicated service to trace the spread of coronavirus from the point of diagnosis of an infected individual.

From 28 May, anyone who tests positive for coronavirus will be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service and will be required to share information about their recent interactions. This could include household members, people with whom they have been in direct contact, or within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes.

Tracing staff will then contact those who test positive for coronavirus to ascertain movements and individuals that the infected person may have encountered and alert those most at risk of having the virus who need to self-isolate.

People identified as having been in close contact with someone who has a positive test must stay at home for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms, to stop unknowingly spreading the virus.

If those in isolation develop symptoms, they can book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119. If they test positive, they must continue to stay at home for 7 days or until their symptoms have passed. If they test negative, they must complete the 14-day isolation period.

Members of their household will not have to stay at home unless the person identified becomes symptomatic, at which point they must also self-isolate for 14 days to avoid unknowingly spreading the virus.

What should I do if I experience coronavirus symptoms?

STEP 1 ISOLATE: As soon as you experience coronavirus symptoms, you should **self-isolate for at least 7 days**. Anyone else in your household should self-isolate for 14 days from when you started having symptoms.



STEP 2 TEST: You should order a coronavirus test immediately at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you have no internet access.



STEP 3 RESULTS: If your test is **positive** you must complete the remainder of your 7-day self-isolation. Anyone in your household should also complete self-isolation for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. If your test is **negative**, you and other household members no longer need to isolate.



STEP 4 SHARE CONTACTS: If you test positive for coronavirus, the NHS Test and Trace service will send you a text or email alert or call you within 24 hours with instructions of how to share details of people you have been in close, recent contact with and places you have visited. It is important that you respond as soon as possible so that we can give appropriate advice to those who need it. You will be asked to do this online via a secure website or you will be called by one of our NHS contact tracers.

What should I do if I am contacted by NHS Test and Trace?

STEP 1 ALERT: You will be alerted by the NHS Test and Trace service if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive (via text or email). You will need to log onto the NHS Test and Trace website to communicate with the service or alternatively you can speak to call handler who will talk you through what to do.



STEP 2 ISOLATE: You will be asked to begin self-isolation for upto 14 days depending on when you last came into contact with the person who has tested positive. It's really important to do this even if you don't feel unwell, because it can take up to 14 days for the symptoms to develop. This will be crucial to avoid you unknowingly spreading the virus to others. Your household doesn't need to self-isolate with you, but they must take extra care to follow the guidance on social distancing and washing your hands.



STEP 3 TEST IF NEEDED: If you develop symptoms of coronavirus, other members of your household should self-isolate at home and you should book a coronavirus test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you have no internet access. If your test is **positive** you must continue to stay at home for 7 days. If your test is negative, you must still complete your 14 day self-isolation period because the virus may not be detectable yet.

What should I do if my employees are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace?

People who are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service will be given clear information explaining what they must do and how they can access local support if needed. Guidance is also available online at gov.uk/coronavirus.

This comes as the Department for Work and Pensions has announced that those having to self-isolate will be eligible for statutory sick pay if they are unable to work from home. This applies across the four nations of the UK.

Employers may face challenges when employees are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. You may have employees unable to attend work due to self-isolation. This may cause problems for employees operating 'fixed teams' to prevent the spread of the virus within the workforce.

Current gov.uk guidance around self-isolation can be found [here](#).

Information for employees at work and on temporary leave can be found [here](#).

Visit the British Chambers of Commerce Coronavirus Support hub [here](#) for detailed guidance on supporting employees through coronavirus.

Our Position

The Black Country Chamber welcomes the news of the NHS Test and Trace service. The ability to trace the spread of the virus and therefore limit its spread is essential to boosting the confidence of business, staff, and consumers as the economic road to recovery continues.

The Government must ensure that there is a coordinated approach to Test and Trace across all four nations of the UK as this is critical to ensuring the success of the programme and enabling business confidence.

Contact the Policy Team:

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