UK Covid-19 Inquiry

The UK's Test, Trace and Isolate response to the pandemic

From January 2020 to April 2022

10/01/2020
PHE developed a diagnostic test

10/02/2020
Diagnostic testing rolled out to 12 labs across the UK

1/03/2020
HSE & ACDP approve derogation for diagnostic testing

12/03/2020
Community testing halted to prioritise hospitals.
Move from 'contain' to 'delay'.
Advice issued to self-isolate for 7 days if symptomatic.

17/03/2020
DHSC took over responsibility for scaling up testing from PHE in England

25/03/2020
Discretionary Support Self-isolation Grant introduced in Northern Ireland

02/04/2020
Health Secretary sets out a plan to carry out 100,000 coronavirus tests a day in England by the end of April.

04/04/2020
Five pillar testing strategy published by DHSC

09/04/2020
First Lighthouse Laboratory launched

18/05/2020
All symptomatic individuals are eligible for testing. Anosmia added to the list of symptoms that require 7 day self-isolation.

28/05/2020
Separate TTI strategies begin to be launched across the four nations of the UK.

08/06/2020
UK arrivals required to self-isolate for 14 days and complete a passenger locator form.

30/07/2020
Self-isolation extended from 7 to 10 days for symptomatic people or those with a positive test.
Northern Ireland becomes the first of the four nations to launch a contact tracing app.

09/09/2020
Operation Moonshot aims to increase daily mass testing capacity to 500,000.

10/09/2020
NHS Protect Scotland app launched.

24/09/2020
NHS COVID-19 app launched in England and Wales

28/09/2020
£500 Test and Trace Support payment opens in England.
Legal requirement to self-isolate first introduced in England.

12/10/2020
£500 Self-Isolation Support Grant open in Scotland

16/11/2020
£500 Self-isolation Payment Scheme open in Wales.

11/12/2020
Self-isolation period for contacts reduced from 14 to 10 days.

14/12/2020
Community Testing Programme begins to be rolled out effectively replacing Operation Moonshot

18/01/2021
International arrivals to the UK must show proof of a negative pre-departure test and self-isolate for 10 days.

9/4/2021
Access to free rapid testing made universally available, starting in England, known as the universal testing offer.

01/04/2022
End of free mass testing in England.