

Laboratory testing capacity and prioritisation of testing

Current laboratory testing capacity

The total capacity for laboratory testing of suspected COVID-19 specimens is limited. Currently there are eight Public Health England (PHE) laboratories carrying out testing with a capacity of 2,100 samples per day. The PHE laboratories carrying out testing are:

- Birmingham
- Bristol
- Cambridge
- Colindale
- Leeds
- Manchester
- Newcastle
- Southampton

Additional testing is being carried out in the Devolved Administrations. The capacity of each PHE laboratory and number of samples tested at each laboratory can be found in Figure 1. The proportion of total current capacity in these laboratories can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 1. Total daily capacity of all current laboratories and daily number tested, as of 28 February 2020

