



Department  
of Health &  
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From Dominic Stanton  
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The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
By email to: [george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk)

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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 April to Matt Hancock on behalf of a number of your constituents about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). I have been asked to reply and I apologise for the lengthy delay in doing so.

Testing is most effective for those who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and it only checks if an individual has the virus right now. Health and care workers are in a different position as they are always in close contact with a constantly changing number of potentially infectious people. This puts them at higher risk of infection, which is why we have extended testing to them regardless of whether they have symptoms, and this will also help protect the people they care for.

The Government has launched a COVID-19 'hub', which can be found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus). The hub offers all the Government's latest advice and guidance.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards,

**DOMINIC STANTON**