

Glasgow COVID-19 Mega Lab Opens

Funded by the UK Government, the Lighthouse Laboratory in Glasgow is part of what will be the biggest network of diagnostic testing facilities in British history, alongside other Lighthouse Lab sites in Milton Keynes and Alderley Park. All have been opened in recent days.

The newly operational lab will test samples from the regional centres where NHS staff and frontline workers with suspected COVID-19 infections are tested. It is hoped the lab will quickly move towards processing several thousand tests per day, before scaling up further to tens of thousands of tests per day.

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

The UK Government has committed to expanding our testing capacity across the UK. The completion of our network with the Lighthouse Lab in Glasgow is a tremendous achievement for all the partners in such challenging circumstances and only five weeks after this project was started.

Scotland has world-class universities and I am pleased they have been involved in this UK-wide effort as we work together to protect the NHS and save lives. Dr Jodie Hay, a Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia researcher at the University of Glasgow, is one of the volunteers at The Lighthouse Lab in Glasgow. A cancer scientist with experience of working with patient samples and molecular lab techniques, Dr Hay volunteered so she could use her skills to help with COVID-19 response in the UK.

The Lighthouse Lab in Glasgow is hosted by the University of Glasgow at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Campus.

Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak, University of Glasgow Vice Principal and Head of the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, who leads the team said:

I am pleased that after weeks of hard work and continued effort by all involved, the University of Glasgow can now deliver the country new, large-scale testing facility, in conjunction with our industry partners and the NHS.

I remain incredibly grateful to all partners and colleagues who have volunteered their time, expertise and skills for this testing facility. As a result of their willingness to help, we have equipped, staffed and set-up a new testing facility that is now operational and will be vitally important in the NHS efforts against this coronavirus pandemic. It has been said all over the

world and confirmed by the WHO that we have to test, test and test more to fight the virus that has killed so many.

The Glasgow facility will be staffed on a 24/7 basis by around 100 staff members. More than 800 volunteers came forward to help with the facility, including highly experienced molecular scientists, technicians and bioinformaticians – all with the relevant skills and experience to carry out COVID-19 testing.

Dr Hay said:

I was one of the first volunteers selected to begin working in the Lighthouse Lab in Glasgow and it has been incredible to see how quickly everyone has been able to get this lab up and running so that we can begin processing the testing samples.

Like my other colleagues working in the lab, we volunteered so that we could use the skills and expertise we have from our usual lab work in this response against COVID-19. Although these are challenging times, it feels positive to be able to use my skills and experience in this way and to be able to help.

The facility has been made possible through the work and commitment of partners, volunteers and University of Glasgow staff, including lab technicians, IT services and colleagues from the Professional Services across the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences in Glasgow.

[Dame Louise Casey writes to Local Authority homelessness managers and rough sleeping coordinators](#)

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Funding boost for remote victim services

- £600,000 for charities to offer remote based support services
- helplines across the UK get funding boost to meet growing demand
- part of government action to ensure help remains available during this difficult time

Social distancing measures mean that some charities can no longer offer face-to-face support, and must transfer to mainly remote based services to provide victims with the practical and emotional help they need.

£600,000 will therefore be reallocated to services immediately, allowing helplines to stay open longer and employ more support workers to handle calls. It will also help fund the technology needed for other forms of contact such as video calls as well as a new online chat service and digital hub run by Victim Support.

Six organisations that together cover the whole of the United Kingdom will benefit from the funding, meaning victims of crimes, in particular sexual and domestic abuse, can still access this essential support.

Justice Minister, Alex Chalk MP, said:

Now more than ever victims need to know that they are not alone, and despite this challenging period help will always be there.

This cash boost will ensure that these vital services – which so many rely on – will continue to be available during this difficult time.

Victim Support Chief Executive Diana Fawcett:

We welcome funding from the Ministry of Justice to expand our online support services to every region of England and Wales, during a period which will be very difficult for victims of crime.

Our message to victims is very clear. Our trained supporters are here to offer you free and confidential support. It doesn't matter where you live, what type of crime you have experienced, when it happened, whether you want support in the day or at night, or if you have reported the crime to the police. Victim Support is here to support you.

Today's (23 April 2020) move follows [a 50 per cent funding boost](#) for rape support services which totals £32 million over the next 3 years for a range

of services including tailored face-to-face support and counselling.

Alongside these measures, additional support is available to protect victims of domestic abuse during the coronavirus outbreak. The government recently published guidance on applying for domestic abuse injunctions remotely and we are boosting domestic abuse helplines and online support with an additional £2 million.

Charities across the UK will also benefit from a £750 million package of support, announced earlier this month by Chancellor Rishi Sunak, to ensure they can continue their vital work during the coronavirus outbreak

Notes to editors

- The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is reallocating £600,000 of existing funds to ensure helplines for victims and witnesses can deal with a surge in demand.
- The organisations benefiting from this include Safeline, The Survivors Trust, National Association for People Abused in Childhood, Rape Crisis England & Wales and Victim Support.
- MOJ funding for victim support services has almost doubled since 2012 to 2013. This year we awarded about £92 million on these services. In previous years this has been £96 million due to a £4 million MOJ contribution to the Home Office's modern slavery contract – this funding has now been directly transferred to the Home Office.
- [Information on Victim and Witness support](#) provision can be found on GOV.UK.
- [Information on specialist support for victims of sexual violence](#) can be found on GOV.UK.

[Philippines travel during coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local car rentals](#)

Metro Manila Nissan Rent-A-Car 0917-819-5406 / 0917-598-7201 / 0917-598-7223 / 0998-963-7682 Cavite and Batangas Carfield Tourist Transport (028) 8535331/0917-887-8112 Batangas Tourist Transport Corp 0917-540-0267 BAPSSODA Transport Services (046) 5735739 Will Go Tour & Transport 0906-262-2284 GM Joe Tours & Transport 0905-827-5956 La Union Briggs-Kaith Travel & Tours (072) 607-2786/242-0172 / 0919-6477-417 briggs.kaith.traveltours@gmail.com Krenzella Travel & Tour 0939-925-3474/0906-244-4839 Ranchez Express Travel and Tours Agency (072) 607-6264/0918-308-7811 rancheztravelsandtours@yahoo.com Ilocos Norte Northern Ilocos City of Laoag Transport 0910-096-7929/0998-547-4900 njayboy@yahoo.com Ilocos Sur Partas Transportation Company (077) 725-1756 ptci.legal@gmail.com Baguio/Benguet/La Trinidad Baguio City Tourist Transport 0916-588-1845 alfredomirandadimla@gmail.com Bukod Pulic Utility Vehicle Operators 0910-768-9695 indianajones965@gmail.com Bokod Transport Cooperative

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Tourist Transport Cooperative 0930-581-6655 norbertcayatoc10@gmail.com
Enclean Transport Cooperative 0929-311-8173 josepholsem@yahoo.com ITTAG
Transport Service Cooperative 0929-953-9033 hjuwentrish@yahoo.com John
Baguio Movement Tourist Service 0908-708-8228 jbmtourist@yahoo.com Sagadian
Tourist Transport Cooperative 0919-931-9334/0929-336-3216
sagadiantranscoop@yahoo.com Smokey Transport 0918-277-8026
smokeytransport@gmail.com Trusted Blistt Alliance of Transport (074)
244-0653 tbatmpc@yahoo.com Isabela Northern Luzon Transport Operators
0926-595-4543/0905-363-2366 RVTJ Tours (078) 305-1564/09267250868
Cagayan Hotel Delfino Tours 0927-445-0969 Tahntahn Van Rental
0917-858-0885 Pampanga/Nueva Ecija MDR Transport 0917-393-2455 Sean
Angel Transport 0925-357-0859 Cebu Catalina Car Rentals 09176287777
Crius Tourist Transport 09176253786 Sanfort Safety Tours Rent A Car
09173251645 Planet J Rent A Car 09063083336, 09175874145 Orient Sun
Transport Corp 09173284371 Pearl of the Pacific Rent-A-Car 09177931271
Divaishnavi Intl. Inc. 09778241287, 09173294457 CLB Tours and Transport
Services 09178479620, 09228815183

[Philippines travel during coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Department of Tourism contacts](#)

World news story

Department of Tourism (DoT) local contacts for British people in the Philippines during the coronavirus restrictions, who are due to travel to the airport.



UK Government

These contacts can arrange transport and advise whether you are required to get a medical certificate in your local area:

Location	Local person	Contact number
Cagayan de Oro	Ms June Blanche Jalalon	+63 936 461 7885
Davao	Ms Clarence Yog	+63 906 017 1717
	Ms Zuhairah Abas	+63 977 851 0903
Cotabato, General Santos, Sultan Kudarat	Ms Jellybee Baay	+63 995 003 5743
Surigao (Caraga Region)	Ms Mary Vil Cruz	+63 998 958 7296

These contacts can arrange transport and advise whether you are required to get a medical certificate in your local area:

Location	Local person	Contact number
Iloilo, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras	Ms Maria Fe Jimenea	+63 917 302 0529
	Mr. Rene Cortum	+63 916 254 4840
Aklan (Boracay)	Ms Pamela Cababasay	+63 916 589 6261
Negros Occidental (Bacolod)	Ms Christine Mansinares	+63 977 820 4901 / +63 918 517 3563
Provincial Offices of Negros Oriental and Dumaguete	Ms Myla Abellana	+63 917 460 5590
	Ms Jackie Antonio	+63 917 688 0888

Location	Local person	Contact number
Provincial Office of Siquijor	Mr Cle Bern Paglinawan	+63 917 635 1027

For assistance in getting to the airport:

Location	Local person	Contact number
Leyte (Tacloban)	Rodel C Balierbare	+63 917 562 6671

For information about buses to the airport:

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