

Where can I have my child's blood test taken?

This leaflet lists different locations where your child can have a blood test.

Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH)

PLEASE NOTE: The Phlebotomy (Blood Test) Department no longer carries out blood tests on children younger than 12 years of age. Children aged under 12 can only have blood tests carried out in the Children's Clinic or on Kempton Unit in the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

12-14 year olds can choose between using Phlebotomy (walk in) or Children's Clinic / Kempton (appointment only).

Phlebotomy (Blood Tests)

Suitable for:	Children over the age of 12 requiring a blood test.
Where:	Level 2 South Block, RBH, Reading RG1 5AN.
When:	Monday Friday 7.30am – 4.15pm. Closed Bank Holidays.
Bookings:	<u>Walk-in service (appointment not required).</u>
Blood forms:	Your hospital doctor will be able to order the test electronically. If your GP has requested the test you will need to bring a blood form.

Children's Clinic

Suitable for:	All children requiring a blood test from birth to 12 years of age.
Where:	Children's Clinic, Level 1 South Block, RBH, Reading RG1 5AN.
When:	Monday mornings ONLY 8.30am – 12.30pm.
Bookings:	<u>Appointments ONLY (no walk-in service).</u> Tel: 0118 322 8142
Blood forms:	Your hospital doctor will be able to order the test electronically. If your GP has requested the test you will need to bring a blood form.

Kempton Day Bed Unit

Suitable for:	All children requiring a blood test from birth to 12 years of age, and children of all ages with special needs .
Where:	Level 3 Centre Block (opposite Lion & Dolphin Wards), RBH, Reading, RG1 5AN.
When:	Where possible, please book a date and time for your child's appointment at least 2 weeks before the test is needed.
Bookings:	Appointments ONLY (no walk-in service) . Tel: 0118 322 7383.
Blood forms:	Your hospital doctor will be able to order the test electronically but it is helpful if you also have a paper copy of the form. All GP requests require a paper blood form.

Children needing additional support (RBH)

Some children find blood tests very difficult. Our play specialists can provide some support prior to the blood taking appointment and do some preparatory work with your child. Appointments with the play specialists (with some after school) are available if your hospital doctor contacts the Play Specialist Team on Lion Ward. Visit the Trust website at www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/wards-and-services/parents-homepage.htm to find out more.

Community sites

West Berkshire Community Hospital

Suitable for:	School age children or younger children from 2 years who are confident with blood tests.
Where:	West Berkshire Community Hospital Phlebotomy Department, RG18 3AS.
When:	Appointments available Monday to Friday 8am – 3pm.
Bookings:	Appointments ONLY (no walk-in service) . Tel: 0163 527 3343 and select option 3 to talk to a receptionist. Please mention your child's age at the time of booking.
Blood forms:	Please ask your hospital doctor or GP to print a blood request form and bring it with you.

Bracknell Healthspace

Suitable for:	Children over the age of 12 requiring a blood test.
Where:	Eastern Gate, Brants Bridge, Bracknell RG12 9BG.
When:	Walk-in Monday to Friday 8am – 4pm.
Bookings:	<u>Walk-in service (appointment not required).</u>
Blood forms:	Please ask your hospital doctor to print a blood form.

Important guidance

Ask your GP or hospital doctor for local anaesthetic cream if you think your child will need it. Apply it where the doctor instructs you to 30 minutes before your appointment time and cover the site with cling film. This will ensure the site will be numbed at the right time. We also offer cold spray to numb the area instantly instead of cream.

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

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