



18 March 2021

Covid -19 Lateral Flow Testing at Home

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lateral flow devices for students for home testing

On Wednesday 17 March, we will complete the COVID-19 testing of students in school using the lateral flow tests. For all students that received consent from home this comprised of three tests spaced 3-5 apart. I would like to thank all of our students for their maturity and excellent conduct during the testing period. I would also like to thank the staff and community volunteers who have enabled this work to take place. Their diligence, care and empathy has been outstanding and a superb team effort to complete well over 4000 tests.

Home testing using lateral flow devices

From Thursday 18 March, we will be providing home testing kits for all students who wish to undertake testing at home, regardless of if they have been tested in school or not. We encourage all families to use these kits. If you do not wish your child to do home testing, please ask your child to return the test kit to their form tutor in school on Friday 19 or Monday 22 March. With the testing kit is a booklet with further information and advice on how to administer the tests.

As students start to test at home, the DfE has published [a step-by-step guide](#) on YouTube to support the transition to home testing.

The DfE has also recently published two blogs, which provide further information on testing for school staff, students and families:

- [Testing for secondary school and college students, their families, and staff](#)
- [Covid-19 testing in schools and colleges.](#)

When to do tests and how to get help

These home tests should be done twice a week, 3-4 days apart and before coming into school.

As a guide and recommendation, you may find it helpful to begin testing on Sunday 21 March, followed by Wednesday 24 March and then again on Sunday 28 March. This would complete home testing up to the Easter break.

Reporting results

When your child takes the test, you are asked to provide the test results to **both** school and NHS Test and Trace. □

Report to NHS Test and Trace at: [Click Here](#)

- Report to school using the following link: [Click Here](#)

Our website also contains our Privacy Statement in relation to the recording of test result data: [Click Here](#)

Please read this statement, as once you begin to undertake home testing you are committing to self-administer the test and report your result to both NHS Test and Trace and school.

Positive test results

If your LFD test indicates a positive result, you should:

1. Complete the online form for school and report online to NHS Test and Trace
2. Inform school of your child's absence as normal



3. Book a PCR Test via a local test centre as you will need to do a follow up test
4. Ensure your child self-isolates at least until you have received their PCR test result

Self-isolating students

Students who need to stay at home due to COVID-19 should access work using **Class Charts**.

We understand parents' frustration when their child is asked to isolate at home either after testing positive for COVID-19, or because of being in close contact of someone who has tested positive. The government have now made it clear that close contacts of confirmed positive cases **must be identified and continue to be asked to isolate at home**.

Thank you for your on-going support.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have been tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample -you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus - LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.



How will personal information and test results be shared?

When students take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the student.

They will need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- child's name
- child's test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

They will also need to tell the school or college their test result.

Under UK law, a child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again.

When someone reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC. DHSC may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person's name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

What if a child cannot tolerate a swab down their throat, perhaps due to their disability?

A child or young person may find it difficult to take a throat swab due, for example, to their having difficulty in understanding instructions, needing to keep their mouth open during the period of swabbing or they are having a strong gag reflex. In such cases, where a combined nose and throat swab is not possible, a nose swab from both nostrils can be taken. Similarly, if a nasal swab is not feasible, a throat swab alone will suffice.

Yours faithfully

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