



17 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you may be aware, we will be transitioning from our in-school testing programme to home testing from next week. This letter contains important information regarding how students will receive their home testing kits and how the process will work.

[The Government has recently announced that](#) all secondary aged students will be offered regular asymptomatic COVID-19 tests to take at home. All secondary aged students will be offered tests to take at home twice a week, so that we can reduce the spread of the virus.

Testing students at home

Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, while others will find it more challenging. Taking part in home testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part or not.

During the morning Form Time session on Friday 19th March students will be provided with 2 test kits, each test kit containing 3 tests along with an 'instructions for use booklet'. If your child is absent on Friday, their PSA or Director of Learning will give them the test kits when they return to school. In line with government guidance, home testing should take place twice weekly. The 'instructions for use booklet' provides clear, step by step guidance regarding how to conduct the test. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#). There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste). Home testing does not replace symptomatic testing. If your child has symptoms, they must self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

For home testing we are asking that you follow the timetable below over the coming weeks, ensuring that the tests are carried out after **5pm** on each of the specified dates. If these dates/times are not possible then doing the tests the morning after the suggested dates (before school) is also fine.

Test Number	Date
1	Sunday 21st March
2	Wednesday 24th March
3	Sunday 28th March
4	Wednesday 31st March
5	Sunday 4th April
6	Wednesday 7th April

The government have recently announced that home testing will continue over the Easter holidays so more testing kits will be provided closer to the time.

Reporting Results

The result of every test needs to be reported using the NHS Test and Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Further details about how to do this are included in the instructions for use booklet.

Results (whether they are positive, negative or void) will also need to be reported to the school by completing the google form on the link below. The link will also be available on the school website; <https://forms.gle/kNhrf7DuZGzUYdSQA>

It is imperative that results are reported to the school to enable us to monitor home testing results and initiate our track and trace procedures should a positive result be recorded.

What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to the school (using the link above). You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school/college).

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

Negative and void results should also be reported to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing. If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

Taking part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. Testing at home does not require written medical consent, consent is given by completing the test. Consequently, all students will be provided with the initial testing kits and as a school we are strongly encouraging all students to take part in the national testing programme.

Please contact your child's Director of Learning or Pupil Support Assistant, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.



Jonathan Dakers
Assistant Principal

Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the attached privacy notice.

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the student to take the test if they need support.

Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** and please also tell the school. If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

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 got 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.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and your school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands.

What if my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school

Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information
- attend a test site to get tested where you will be able to see how to take the test or pick up tests to do at home (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students](#).

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child. You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

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

You will also need to tell your child's school or college their test result. Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

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. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the attached detailed privacy notice.