

10 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Home Testing for Students – Opt-In Confirmation Required

Thank you to all our students and parents/carers for your support in terms of returning to school. We are very proud of how our students have conducted themselves and the majority chose to participate in the voluntary COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme at school. You may be aware that student testing will shortly move to twice-weekly home testing (3-4 days apart).

Home testing kits for students will be distributed by school. So that we know who to give kits out to, you will need to opt-in to home testing - please do this even if you have previously consented to testing on the school site.

Parents/Carers of pupils under the age of 18 will need to confirm this. Pupils aged 18 or over can opt-in themselves.

Please read the following carefully as there are some subtle differences in the testing at home programme.

Taking test kits home

Test kits will be distributed to students on Wednesday 17 March 2021.

Students should take the test two times every week prior to coming into school on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.

Students will be given a pack of 7 tests in a box with a separate leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

It is important that the leaflet which comes separately is used. This replaces the leaflet which is contained in the test kit box.



Who should conduct the test?

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 the Result

Test results (whether positive, negative or void) need to be reported to:

1. NHS Test & Trace website via the self-report website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.
2. The school via the [online form](#).

We will provide two QR codes which you can keep with your test kits and will help you with the reporting of test results.

[Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how [to take the test](#).

LFD home tests should not be used if you have symptoms of Coronavirus. You should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test via a testing site and follow national guidelines.

How is your personal data processed?

Please read the NSAT Privacy Notice for COVID-19 Home Testing which is available [here](#) for details of how personal data will be processed and shared in relation to home testing.

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

We are strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow us to reduce the spread of the virus and break the chain of transmission.

Please click on the [link](#) or scan the QR code as soon as possible to let us know if you are opting into home testing. Test kits will only be provided to students who have completed this new opt-in form.



We envisage that most students will feel more comfortable taking the test in their own home with the support of their parents/carers or a trusted adult. However, we will keep a small on-site testing provision for those students who cannot test at home.

Please contact Maureen Braden our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.



Jenn Plews
Trust Leader (Chief Executive Officer)

Frequently asked questions

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 should report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and your school via the online form.

You should [book 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 will need to do another test.

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

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written medical consent to take part in the home testing programme. However, we are asking parents/carers to confirm that their child is opting into home testing. This will help us to distribute and keep track of testing kit stock levels.

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

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 - they give rapid results within 30 minutes

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 administer the test.



Can 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://www.nhs.uk/covid-19-test-finder)

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](#).

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 administer the test.

Do I need to carry out an LFD test in the holidays?

No. You do not need to test in the school holidays. You will need to carry out a test the evening prior to returning to school.

