



9 March 2021

Dear Parent

Lateral flow devices for students for home testing

On Monday 15 March we will complete the COVID-19 testing of students in school. This will see all students whose parents consented to testing having been tested three times. I would like to thank all of the staff who have enabled this to take place for their outstanding work, which I am sure parents and student will wish to acknowledge also.

Home testing using lateral flow devices

On Tuesday 16 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. In an additional tutor time, staff will hand out three kits to all students. If you do not wish your child to do home testing, please ask them to not take the kits offered to them. You will also be provided with a booklet with further information and advice. These kits will provide enough tests to last up until the Easter holidays. We will write to you again before then in relation to testing after this time..

When to do tests and how to get help

These tests should be done at home twice a week, 3-4 days apart and ideally before coming into school. Our website contains a [news article](#) with a link to both a [leaflet](#) and [YouTube video](#) which will help you.

Reporting results

When you take the tests, you are asked to provide the test results to **both** school and NHS Test and Trace. These are doing using the links also on our website and are given below also:

- [Reporting your test result to school](#)
- [Reporting your Test to NHS Test and Trace](#)

Our website also contains our Privacy statement in relation to the recording of test result data, this is found [here](#). You are asked to read our privacy notice, as once you start 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 forms for school and 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. Self-isolate at least until you have received your PCR test results

Work for self-isolating students

Students who need to stay at home due to COVID-19 should access work using both Satchel One and Student SharePoint. Work for the half term for all subjects has been published in student SharePoint, further information is available on our [website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel.

We have been delighted with the start that students have made this week, attendance has been outstanding and students have settled into routines well.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Richard Pierpoint
Executive Head



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 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.

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.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice on our [website](#).

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.

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