26th February 2021

# NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students

We are working hard to keep our school as safe as possible. You will have heard that schools will be offering all students COVID-19 lateral flow tests.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to take it.

In-School Testing

Students will undertake three tests in school over a period of time. After this, students will be provided with home test kits and guidance on how to complete tests at home.

Testing is optional, however parental consent is required in advance.

Students will conduct the tests themselves in school, under the supervision of trained staff, unless a need for assistance has been requested. The test requires a swab of the nose and throat.

Only positive results will be shared with the relevant student and parental contact. Students will be sent home to isolate and will be requested to complete a PCR test to confirm the reading. If the PCR result is positive, you must immediately inform the school and continue to self-isolate. This will be 10 days from the date the student was sent home.

Home Testing

After the third lateral flow test in school, students will be provided with their box of home test kits. It is advised that home tests should be conducted twice a week before coming to school, allowing for 2-3 days between each test. The following NHS video guidance is useful in explaining how to conduct the test at home - <https://youtu.be/S9XR8RZxKNo>.

You are required the report the result of home lateral tests using the Covid-19 test result website (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>), regardless if the test result is positive, negative or void. As a school, we do not have access to this information, so if your child tests positive, please inform the school, so that we can keep a record and advise you of the next steps.

# Incident Reporting

# It is very unlikely, but if any clinical or non-clinical issues occur, this must be reported.

# Examples of clinical issues are a swab breaking in the mouth, bleeding, allergic reaction on using the test kit etc. Non-clinical issues would be for example a missing item for a test kit.

# Frequently Asked Questions

# What if my child develops symptoms prior to taking a lateral flow test?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

You must also inform the school as soon as possible.

# What if a student tests positive following a lateral flow test?

# Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students will need to take a further ‘PCR test’ (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). Where we are able to, we will provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while you wait for the PCR result (via text / email) you will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will need to inform the school immediately and will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

# What happens if the lateral flow test is negative?

You will be able to remain in school and resume activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a ‘lateral flow’ test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

# What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

The school will conduct contact tracing and inform and inform students and their parents if they need to isolate.