

17th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Lateral Flow Device Testing

Following a very successful period of in-school testing, we are now transitioning to home testing as required by the government. Tests kits will be given to students to take home with them later this week and will be issued to all students whose parents/carers have previously provided consent. If you have not previously consented but would like your child to receive home tests, please contact the school on 01206 671155. Tests are free of charge and students will receive two packs containing three tests per box and an instruction leaflet outlining how to take the test and how to report the results. Testing should continue throughout the Easter break.

There is an expectation that students will be tested twice-weekly and ideally, we would like these tests to be carried out on a Sunday and Wednesday evening, with the first one being done on Sunday 21st March. Full details on how to take a test can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>.

Please note that these tests are for students to use only. If you would like to receive tests for yourself or another member of the household, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> where you will be able to place an order or find the nearest test centre collection point.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Parents/carers will also need to tell the school the result of each test by logging your child's results through www.testregister.co.uk. Parents/carers will receive a login to use this facility separately.

If a student has a positive test result, they will need to stay at home and self-isolate, and this must now be confirmed by a further PCR test. If the result of the test is unclear (void) the student will need to do another one.

Please find attached some frequently asked questions, which should address any queries that you may have. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. However, we strongly recommend that all students take part in the national testing programme.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions or concerns about home testing. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr N. Mussett
Deputy Headteacher

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 can be found here: <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 two 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 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 the school your child's 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 a person reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC, who may then share the information with a 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

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 if my 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.