



17 March 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

COVID-19 – Home Testing

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

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To help reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals.

Taking test kits home

We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child on Friday 19th March. Tests are free of charge. Please make sure your child tests twice a week before school on Mondays and Thursdays. If this is not possible, please do this the evening before. Your child should also continue testing twice a week throughout the Easter school holiday. We will provide extra kits on Wednesday 31st March to enable this. This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test by calling 119 and follow national guidelines.

Taking the tests

You should take the test two times every week. Make sure you have enough time to do the test before coming to School. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening after School if needed. You need to report test results (see below).

[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](#).

If a pupil / student has a positive test result, they will need to stay home and self-isolate. You need to report your result to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and the School. You should order a confirmatory PCR test - you can [book a test here](#).

If the result of the test is unclear (void) your child will need to do another one. Pupils / students have the option to take the test the evening before school, but no earlier. Test results should always be reported.



Can I take the test myself?

- Pupils aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.
- Pupils aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help your child to take the test if they need support.
- Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.

You need to report each test result

You will also need to tell us the result of each test – please visit

<https://tinyurl.com/UoBS-Covid-19>

The result of each test needs also to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open 7am to 11pm.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

Regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending 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.

To find out more on school household testing visit [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests.](#)

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and your child will be able to attend School whether they take part in testing or not. We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing. Testing at home will allow us to further reduce the spread of the virus.

Please contact Mr Haslam, our COVID Testing Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Mr C Townsend
Principal



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 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 pupils / 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 themselves.

They need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- their name
- their 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 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 (without 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 <https://uobschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Privacy-Statement-Pupils-Home-Testing-March-2021.pdf>