

# Staff and pupil/student testing – quick, safe, easy

Staff, pupils and students will be tested using a validated Lateral Flow Device.

Up to **a third of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 have no symptoms** at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. That is why the testing of people without symptoms is vital. Identifying those individuals will save lives. This is what is known as ‘**mass testing**’.

Initially testing will be provided for **all secondary pupils students and staff** as they return from the Christmas holidays. After this, **staff will be tested once a week** on an ongoing basis.

**Pupils, students and staff** will be tested if they come into contact with a positive case. This new approach, known as ‘**serial contact testing**’, will allow those who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school or college if they agree to be tested for 7 days\* following last contact with a positive case.

## Quick

Swabbing and processing of these tests will be conducted at a dedicated testing site in the school or college with **results available in around 30 minutes**.

## Safe

These tests work. In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they

were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.8% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

When used in combination with **other measures such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), washing hands regularly and social distancing**, these tests further reduce the risk of transmission. We must not relax any of these measures – this testing programme is in addition to them.

## Easy


Lateral flow devices **do not require a laboratory** to process the test. The devices are designed to be intuitive and require minimal training to operate.



## Lateral Flow Testing



 Accessible and easy to use

 No lab required, with fast results

 Safe technology

\* If staff, pupils or students cannot take a test (e.g. on the weekend) they should self-isolate for that day, and resume serial contact testing on their return to school / college. If they return after the 7 days are finished, then they should take one final test, and if it is negative they can return to school/college.

# A new approach to close contacts – ‘serial contact testing’\*

## Printable guidance for Schools and Colleges

A new approach known as ‘**serial contact testing**’ has been developed to help find more asymptomatic cases. This will allow those (pupils/students and staff) who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school/college. If they agree to be tested for 7 days\* following their last contact with a positive case.

**IMPORTANT:** If, at any point, a student/pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must [follow government guidelines](#), [order a PCR test](#) and self-isolate.

### I want to take the daily test...

You'll need to take a lateral flow test at the start of each day for **7 days\***

### If your lateral flow test is negative

Continue with your normal activities until your next test is due.

### If your lateral flow test is positive

Follow [the national guidance](#), and **take a confirmatory PCR test**, self isolate until the result of your PCR test is available.

### If your PCR test is positive

Complete 10 days self isolation. All other identified close contacts and household members of this positive case will now also follow the [national guidance](#).

### If your PCR test is negative

Continue with your normal activities until your next LFD test is due.

*You can choose to opt out from daily testing at any time and self-isolate.*

### I'd rather stay at home...

If you do not wish to be tested daily or are unable to be tested for any reason, you must self-isolate in accordance with [national guidance](#) until 10 days after the person they are a contact of tested positive

Any new positive cases during serial contact testing will reset the clock for the serial contact testing (daily testing) to the start of 7 days.

\*If the participant cannot take a test (e.g. on the weekend), they should self-isolate for that day, and resume serial contact testing on their return to school / college. If they return after the 7 days are finished, then they should take one test to complete the self-isolation period, and if it is negative they can return to school/college and their testing period is complete (even if they have not taken 7 tests in total).

A close contact of my child **at school / college** tested positive, what are my options?



# How the testing process works

For pupils/students (supervised self-swabbing)

Test and Trace

## HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1

YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2

YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

3

BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4

10 SECS  
OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

5

REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6

GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7

AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8

YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9

YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Please find instructional leaflet in the separate attachment on the portal

# COVID-related pupil/student absence – Printable Guidance for Parents and Pupils/Students (1/2)

The guidance below addresses what a positive or negative test result means for your child and your household, and the support available to you.

What happens if a **close contact** of my child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Device?

- They can consent to take part in 'serial contact testing' where they are tested daily for 7 days
- If they test negative, they can remain in school/college that day
- If you or they do not wish to take part, they will need to self-isolate

What if my child tests **negative** for COVID-19 on a Lateral Flow Device?

- There will be no need for them to self-isolate and they can remain in school / college as normal
- Social distancing and face coverings where appropriate will remain necessary

What do I need to do if my child tests **positive** for COVID-19 on a Lateral Flow Device?

- They will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the positive result
- Contact the school / college to inform us of the PCR test result which you will receive via text / email
- If the PCR result is positive, your child will need to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days

How does my child testing positive impact the rest of my household?

- Your household will have to self-isolate for 10 days
- Follow the [latest government guidance](#).

When can my child return to school / college after testing positive for COVID-19?

- Your child can stop self-isolating and return to school / college on day 11 **after the positive PCR test** if they've not had a high temperature for 48 hours and are well
- They can return then even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell as these symptoms can last for several weeks

# COVID-related pupil/student absence – Printable Guidance for Parents and Pupils/Students (2/2)

The guidance below addresses what a positive or negative test result means for your child and your household, and the support available to you.

What does a positive result mean for my child's education?

We have a strong commitment to ensuring all pupils/students can access a wide range of learning resources remotely and will continue to support their education whilst they are self-isolating.

Additional information can be found  
<https://bit.ly/covidhomelearning>



Addressing your concerns

For more information you can visit:  
<https://bit.ly/covidhomelearning>  
If you're worried about your child medically, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/> or call 111.

**IMPORTANT:** If, at any point, a student/pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must [follow government guidelines](#), [order a PCR test](#) and self-isolate.

