

March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 Lateral Flow testing (at home) for Secondary Students

Following the wider reopening of schools and colleges from 8 March, the government has confirmed its plans for regular testing for those without coronavirus symptoms.

It has been fantastic to see so many students being part of the testing in school and thank you for your support in this.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus.

After the first 3 tests in school we are moving to testing at home for students. If students have already given consent to be part of the testing in school then you/they do not need to give a further consent for home testing. Students will be given their self-test kits by the school. We have provided more detail later in this letter on what you need to do to take and record the test results.

Although we are encouraging testing it is not mandatory and where consent is not given students will not be given home test kits.

Testing of students at home

All secondary students, once they have had 3 tests in school, will be able to conduct their tests at home and will be asked to continue testing twice a week.

Students will be given their LFD test kits by the school, which enables self-testing at home. Tests will come in packs of 3 and we will record how many tests are given to each student. Tests should be conducted before coming into school, twice a week. Tests should be performed 3-4 days apart and the first test at home should be 3-4 days from the last test in school.

It is recommended that students are tested in the morning before attending school (so there is less chance of the student getting infected between taking the test and attending school). However, you may choose to do the testing the evening before, especially the first time, to give the student more time to get accustomed to the test, and to have more time for the school to react should there be a positive test result.

Please note

- Students aged 11 should have the test administered by an adult.
- Students aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves.
- Students aged 18 and over can administer the tests themselves.

The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test. [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#)

It is important that tests assigned to the student are not used by anyone else.

How do I report results?

All results (positive, negative or void) need to be reported to the NHS and to school.

To report to the NHS it is via the NHS Test & Trace digital platform - [Report to NHS](#)

To report to school it is via the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h7xgUQ5nbUWPP7ZWkj48iF-Vmhq3DH1Cu60utKtO00VUQINHUDRQUVI0MjczTIU0NDJZNDdaMIBGRC4u>



Registered address: Tapton School Academy Trust, Darwin Lane, Sheffield, S10 5RG
Tel: 0114 267 1414 Email: enquiries@taptontrust.org.uk Web: www.taptontrust.org.uk

Charitable Limited Company Registration Number: 07697171.
Registered office: England and Wales. VAT Number: 134392225.

Please report positive results immediately to the school as this will enable us to perform any contact tracing required. Please report all results to school as soon as possible. The school will send reminder letters or messages to students where required.

Consent and Privacy

Once you have understood the testing process and have read the privacy notice [Lateral flow testing - Privacy Notice](#) if you/the student chooses to participate, you are committing to self-administer the test and report your results (whether positive, negative or void) via the NHS Test & Trace digital platform and to the school as detailed above.

If you have any concerns about the testing or are struggling to perform the testing at home then please contact the school. We would be happy to answer your questions and if needed we are keeping a small facility for on school testing for those who are struggling to perform the test at home.

We encourage all students to be part of the testing but testing is voluntary and you may withdraw consent for the testing at any time by letting the school office know by email to enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk

Students who decline to participate can still attend school.

If the student wishes to be part of the testing and have not given consent as part of the testing in school then please contact the school to let them know and they will provide you with a consent form.

We will continue to support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Kat Rhodes
Headteacher



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Frequently Asked Questions

Can students swab themselves?

No children below the age of 11 should be tested.

Secondary students aged 11 should have the test administered by an adult, and students aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves.

How effective are these tests?

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect asymptomatic COVID-19 cases. The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested. LFD tests are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The tests are highly specific, with low chances of false positives.

They are also very sensitive and able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. It is important to remember that these tests are an additional layer of health protection measure in addition to hand washing, face covering and social distancing.

What if someone tests positive on a **home** lateral flow test?

You should contact the headteacher as soon as possible on the day of the result to enable any contact tracing to take place.

If your test is on a weekend then still contact the headteacher on the day of a positive result. You will need to self-isolate for 10 full days following the test and not attend school. Please find further guidance on [self-isolation here](#).

You should obtain a PCR test and let the school know the result - [Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Whilst awaiting the test result the student and their close contacts should self-isolate.

- If the PCR test is positive you and the household will have to self-isolate in line with [self-isolation here](#).
- If the PCR test is negative it overrides the LFD test (at home testing only) and the student can return to school.

What if someone tests positive from an **in school** lateral flow test?

This is different guidance to the home tests.

If a student received a supervised school-based LFD test, as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme, and it was positive then they and other members of their household must self-isolate.



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PCR testing is not advised if you have received a positive result from an LFD test at school. If the student did take a PCR test and it returned a negative result, the government policy remains that the student, their close contacts, and other members of their household must still self-isolate.

What happens if the lateral flow test is negative?

You will be able to attend school as normal. A small number of individuals may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if the test is void?

If you get a void result, this means that the test has not run correctly. You need to take another test. Use a new test kit, but do not reuse anything from the first kit. Please report the void result to the school.

How do I dispose of the test?

Once your test is complete, put all of the used test kit contents in the waste bag provided. Put in your general household waste.

What if a close contact at school tests positive on a PCR or a lateral flow Test?

Close contacts of someone who has tested positive will be required to self-isolate for 10 days following the date of contact with that person.

What if I'm a close contact of a positive individual?

Please find further guidance on [self-isolation here](#).

How often are we offering testing?

Twice a week. You do not need to take a test if you are not in school or on holiday. You should take a test before returning to school after school holidays (i.e. on the Sunday evening or Monday morning).

Can I use the tests for my household?

No, the tests are only for your own use and all results must be logged with the school and NHS in your name.

Can I take a test if I have been PCR positive within the last 90 days?



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No, and you must not come into school if you are still self-isolating or have symptoms.

What if I develop symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If you develop 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) you must immediately self-isolate, and book a PCR test by visiting [NHS PCR test](#)



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