

July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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

Thank you for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme. Please continue to encourage your child to test twice weekly and report the results until the end of the summer term.

The asymptomatic lateral flow testing programme is being paused for students where the school will be closed over the summer holidays. Your child should continue to test twice a week if they are attending face to face education in school over the summer (new year 7 pupils do not need to test twice a week to attend summer school).

If you or your child are not attending a setting over the summer but wish to access rapid lateral flow testing, you can continue to do so by ordering LFD test kits from GOV.UK or by collecting kits from your local pharmacy.

If your child is transitioning to new educational settings, they should start testing on arrival at their new setting in the autumn.

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Subject to public health advice, we are currently expecting testing will restart on return in the autumn. If it does, we expect to offer your child **two** tests on-site before continuing regular testing at home.

This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation

Summer Holiday 2021

Current students can continue to test at home and if they are attending school then we encourage tests prior to attending the school site. Students who will be in Year 7 from September do not need to take lateral flow tests prior to attending our summer schools.



September 2021 first week testing in school

We are aiming to offer 2 tests in school to all students in the first week back, we are then 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 complete 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. Where consent is not given students will not be tested in school or given home test kits.

September 2021 testing of students at home

All secondary students, once they have had 2 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 from school, which enables self-testing at home. Tests will come in packs of 3 or 7 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 3-5 days apart and the first test at home should be 3-5 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](#)



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

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Registered office: England and Wales. VAT Number: 134392225.

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

How do I report home testing 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 and we recommend you register in advance , see attached FAQs and - [Report to NHS](#)

To report your results to school please click on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/66kUeSE8nZ>

Please report positive results immediately to the school. Please report all results to school as soon as possible.

Consent – Testing in School

We encourage testing to help protect all individuals in school. Testing is voluntary and individuals will be allowed to attend school even if they decide not to take part in testing

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Please ensure you have familiarised yourself with the COVID-19 Testing Privacy Statement [See link](#)
If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the online form contained in the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/94ZNIKsynn>

If you have previously given consent for testing in school you **do not need** to do so again.

If you are unable to complete the online form then please contact the school in order to receive a paper version.

Consent and Privacy – home testing

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



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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 on enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk

Students who decline to participate can still attend school.

Testing twice weekly is helping the country stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and plan our response. The preparations that schools are advised by government to take are subject to further public health advice and the latest position on prevalence of the COVID-19 virus.

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

Yours faithfully,



Kat Rhodes
Headteacher

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?



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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 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 lateral flow test?

You should contact the headteacher as soon as possible on the day of the result.

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 immediately and not attend school until you have received a PCR test result (see below). Please find further guidance on [self-isolation here](#).

All positive results from rapid tests, whether conducted at home or at a school need to be confirmed with a PCR test within 48 hours of the positive lateral flow test. Following a positive lateral flow test, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked immediately [either online](#) or by calling 119. - [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 lateral flow test and students can return to school as long as the individual is well with no symptoms. Close contacts and other household members can also stop self-isolating.

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?



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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 I'm a close contact of a positive individual?

Close contacts of someone who has tested positive will be required to follow the self isolation guidance here [self-isolation here](#).

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.

What if I develop symptoms?

This testing is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

How do I register with NHS?

Registration with NHS Test and Trace (for those aged 13 and over)

Before they can take a test, students should pre-register with NHS Test and Trace via [GOV.UK: Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#). This is different to the NHS app and the process of pre-registration should be completed before arrival at the Test Centre in School. Whilst you can be tested as a 'guest' on the NHS Test and Trace site, we recommend that you register for an NHS Login in order to record all of your forthcoming tests..

What if I am unable to register with NHS Test and Trace prior to my test? (for those aged 13 and over)

If you are unable to pre-register with the NHS Test and Trace service in advance of your test then we will provide a device which you can use for registration if required at the Test Site reception. Please note the laptop will be cleaned after each use.

What if I am unable to register with NHS Test and Trace prior to my test? (for those aged 13 and under)



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The guidance states that children under the age of 13 should not register for NHS Test and Trace. As a result, they are required to re-register their details each time they get a test. When accessing NHS test and Trace (whilst supervised) the user should click on “Register without using an NHS log on”. They will be required to provide a mobile number on which to receive their test result. All students will still have their results recorded with NHS Test & Trace.



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