



**Central Lancaster
High School**

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12th March 2021

Dear parent/ carer,

We are very proud of the way that our pupils have taken to the LFD testing programme in school. They have been calm and supportive of each other during this new experience. We would like to thank our parents for preparing their children for the testing, working together with school has allowed the programme to run very smoothly.

As pupils are heading towards their 3rd test in school, I would like to make you aware of the next stage of COVID-19 testing. It is a simple swab test that you do at home using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD). It takes around 30 minutes to get a result and find out if your child has the virus.

We will start to issue pupils with their home testing kits during the week beginning 15th March as follows:

- Year 10 Monday 15th March
- Year 11 Tuesday 16th March
- Year 9 Wednesday 17th March
- Year 8 Thursday 18th March
- Year 7 Friday 19th March

The kit requires a test to be completed and recorded through NHS track and trace twice a week. We suggest that a test be carried out on a Sunday afternoon and then again on a Wednesday evening. This will allow the required 3 days spacing between tests. Each kit contains 3 tests. We will issue 2 kits per pupil so that testing can be completed over 3 weeks. We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#). [Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results.

You should report your results to the NHS, online and straight away, even if your result is negative or void. It is easy to do at <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 every day, 7am to 11pm. Parents are required to also report positive, negative and void results to school on the online form <https://tinyurl.com/h46ev37b> . Please ensure that you contact us immediately if your child has a positive result via 01524 32636 or clhs@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk Reporting positive results to school helps us with contact tracing.

If your child has a negative test result, they can continue to attend school. If they test positive, they and their household bubble should all self- isolate immediately. Children who test positive should take a confirmatory PCR test and follow the latest government guidance. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the home test LFD test and your child can return to school.

With this letter, I have attached guidance for home testing that is provided by the government. The testing kit also includes guidance. However, if you are unsure about anything to do with the home testing, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/d7jh8pdt> or contact school if you are still unsure.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria O'Farrell
Vice Principal

Principal:
Dr N. Walmsley



Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice

<https://www.lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk/covid-19>

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school , regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Can my child take the home test themselves?

Pupils aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the pupil to take the test if they need support.

Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult (this only applies to home testing) and the adult must report the result.

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 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 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 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.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both NHS Test & Trace and your school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands.

What if my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school

Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. 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 take the test [here](#).

How do you report the result?

it is positive, negative or void) using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.



All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information
- attend 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 (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students](#).

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 your child's school or college their test result.

Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

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. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their 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://www.lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk/covid-19>