

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

The Government has recently announced that all secondary and college aged students will be offered tests on their return to school.

Testing students at home

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part or not. We hope that the option to take the test in the morning or the evening will support families to test at home. Tests are free of charge. Your child will receive a pack of 3 in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. Make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed. You need to report the test results.

If you agree that it is appropriate for your child to be tested at home, school will be able to either give them to parents at drop off/pick up, send them via the bus escort or you can arrange to collect their home test kits from the school office. Please complete the attached consent slip and return to school by **Wednesday 17th March 2021**.

Taking the test

Your child should take the test twice a week. We would like pupils to take their tests on Sunday night or Monday morning and again Wednesday night or Thursday morning. A leaflet giving instructions on how to do the test will be given with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

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.

There is no need to keep used test equipment. After the test result has been reported, you can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms you should self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the LFD test?

If your child (or anyone in your household) tests positive or gets coronavirus, you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You need to report each test result

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The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

You will also need to tell the school the result of the test using the following link;

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yIDyozGCLEWuxbl4I6sUreQ0BG1DanhOlrbtwIZBF3JUMkszR0IJNFVLMksZUDBEMEJSMLpHUUIZNC4u>

Why testing is important

I am strongly encouraging all children to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other children to attend school and help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Please contact Stuart Harris our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing on s.harris@grange.manchester.sch.uk

Thank you for your support.



Rachael Clifford
Headteacher

HOME TESTING

I would like to access a home testing kit for my child (Name) _____

I have read the privacy notice

I will:

Collect the test via the school office

Collect the test at pick up/drop off

Collect the test from my child's bus escort

I understand it is my responsibility to collect my child's test kit

Signed _____

Date _____

PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL BY WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH 2021

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://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jYv0MjFyIlbzgPn_1S10OuRgfrj_b5_P

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.

Students 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 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/>

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 can 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

You can book a test here:

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/essential-worker>

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 do another one.
- If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test.

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 administer the test here.

How do you report the result?

Once your child has taken the test, you will need to report the result online (whether it is positive, negative or void) using this service.

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

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.

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)

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

What if my child cannot tolerate a swab down their throat, perhaps due to their disability?

A child or young person may find it difficult to take a throat swab due, for example, to their having difficulty in understanding instructions, needing to keep their mouth open during the period of swabbing or they are having a strong gag reflex. In such cases, where a combined nose and throat swab is not possible, a nose swab from both nostrils can be taken. Similarly, if a nasal swab is not feasible, a throat swab alone will suffice.

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How do I swab my child?

If you are assisting with swabbing as your child needs support, for example due to their special education needs or disability, you can find guidance on doing this here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/934735/coronavirus_test_guide_how_to_test_on_a_child.pdf

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes an LFD 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'. 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 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://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jYv0MjFyllbZgPn_1S10OuRgfrj_b5_P