



15<sup>th</sup> 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 school by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

As you aware, by the end of Tuesday, all students will have had the opportunity to be tested three times in school – helping make the return to school safer for everyone.

### Testing students at home

Students will be given test kits on the following dates, and we would like them to take their tests every Monday and Thursday, starting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Date students will receive test kits	Dates tests to be taken
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 (1 kit – 3 tests, 1 will be spare)	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 (1 kit – 3 tests, 1 will be spare)	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021 (2 kits – 6 tests, 1 will be spare)	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> April Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> April Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> April
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 (2 kits – 6 tests, 1 will be spare)	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> April Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> April Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 (2 kits – 6 tests, 1 will be spare)	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> May Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 (2 kits – 6 tests, 1 will be spare)	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> May Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> June

### **Taking the test**

On Thursday morning, all students will watch the video on how to do the test at home, this is available to view again here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1>

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 test?**

If anyone tests **positive 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 should order a confirmatory PCR test (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>) if you are testing at home.

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are 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 and observing social distancing.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow national guidelines on self-isolation and testing.

### **You need to report each test result**

The result of each test (positive, negative and void) 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 each test the form here:

<https://www.newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk/parents/report-covid-self-test-result-online>

### **Why take part**

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. I am strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Please contact school us on 0161 4138546 or through email [admin@newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.co.uk](mailto:admin@newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.co.uk), if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Kyra Jones

## 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 on the school website.

### Can my child take the test themselves?

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

### 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.

### **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](https://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://www.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](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

### **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.