

Home Testing - Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you testing people without symptoms of COVID-19?

Up to one in three people who have coronavirus (COVID-19) do not display any symptoms.

Is home testing compulsory?

Testing is voluntary, and students will not be refused entry to school if they do not take part. However, the success of this public health measure depends on as many people participating as possible. I would encourage all families to take part to support us in keeping the school open safely for everyone.

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. They are simple and quick to use.

Can children and young people swab themselves?

Students in Year 7 who are aged 11 should have the test administered at home by an adult. Students aged 12-16 can swab themselves but should be supervised by an adult.

How often does my child need to test?

Students should test at home twice per week, 3 to 4 days apart. Tests will ideally be done in the morning before students come into school but can be carried out in the evening if it is more convenient. We will re-issue test kits to students on a regular basis.

You should carry on testing at home twice weekly through the Easter holidays.

Where does my child get their test kits?

We will distribute the first batch of home test kits to all students in school between Monday 15th – Thursday 18th March. Year Leaders will oversee distribution of test kits to students in their year group.

What if my child is unable to test at home? Can they still be tested in school?

We will retain a small test site in school for students in exceptional circumstances who are unable to carry out testing at home. Please contact your child's Year Leader in the first instance to discuss eligibility.

How do we know how to carry out the tests properly?

Most students have completed three supervised tests in school to gain confidence and practise the process of self swabbing. They have also been given training during tutor time. The attached leaflet also includes a link to a really useful YouTube video, which provides an overview of the self swabbing/testing process.

Do I need to give consent for my child to be tested at home?

No. By opening the test kit at home, you are giving consent for your child to be tested and are agreeing to share test results with NHS Test & Trace and with school. A copy of the privacy notice can be found on the school website here: <https://www.birkenheadparkschool.com/studentcovidhometests>

How do I share the results of my child's home tests?

The attached leaflet gives an overview of how you can use your mobile phone to scan the two QR codes and share test results with NHS Test & Trace **and** with school. All test results should be shared – positive, negative or void. If you have any issues accessing either the NHS website or the online school document, please contact kca@birkenheadparkschool.com.

Can other members of the family use the test kits from school?

No. **Test kits issued by school are for students' use only.** However, all adults without symptoms in households with school age children can now access regular testing at home.

Household test kits can be collected from your employer, if they offer testing to employees, collected from a local Wirral test site (see <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/covid-19-testing/covid-19-testing-households-school-children>) or ordered online.

If my child has already had COVID, do they still need to carry out home testing?

Current Public Health guidance states that individuals who have tested positive within the last 90 days do not need to take part in testing until the 90 days have elapsed.

What do I do if my child tests POSITIVE on a home test?

You should share the positive test result with NHS Test & Trace and with school immediately through the online results service described above and contact school **as a matter of urgency** on 0151 652 1574.

Your child must self-isolate at home for 10 days in line with government guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance> . Other household members must isolate for 10 days as well. You will need to book a PCR test to confirm the result of the home test.

If this follow-up PCR test result is **negative** and your child has no symptoms of COVID-19, they can return to school and household members can stop isolating. If it is **positive**, your child and household members must complete the period of self-isolation.

What do I do if there is a problem with my child's test kit, it appears faulty or there are items missing?

If there are any issues with your home test kit, please contact kca@birkenheadparkschool.com.