
Frequently asked questions – Home Testing for Secondary/Colleges and Households and Childcare/Support Bubbles

Why is it needed?	<p>Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 do not have symptoms and could pass on the virus without knowing. As we begin on our roadmap out of lockdown it is important we provide testing to identify potential outbreaks and help break the chains of transmission.</p> <p>The asymptomatic testing expansion will help to break the chains of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in education settings and the community by identifying asymptomatic positive cases. Those who test positive will then self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus. The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the Government's current testing policy for those with symptoms. If any member of the household has symptoms of COVID-19 they should self-isolate immediately and arrange a test.</p>
Who is eligible?	<p>This testing is available for secondary/college aged pupils, households and childcare or support bubbles of primary and secondary school age children.</p>
How often do we need to test?	<p>Secondary/college aged pupils are being asked to test twice a week. We would like you test on a Sunday and Wednesday evening after 6pm.</p> <p>Household and childcare/support bubbles wishing to take part in testing will need to test twice a week.</p>
How will we get our testing kits?	<p>Secondary/college aged pupils will be given their test kits by their school after they have completed three tests within the school/college assisted testing site.</p> <p>We are encouraging households and childcare/support bubble members to get asymptomatic tests twice a week, to get home testing kits please visit https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/</p>

Will there be training to help individuals do the test properly?	<p>All of the information needed to allow an individual to participate in testing will be included in the instructions. Detailed information on how to self-swab and use the at home LFD tests can be found in the following resources:</p> <p>www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help</p>
How do I dispose of the test kits?	Once a test is complete, the device can be disposed of as domestic waste in your normal household bins.
My child or household members has a cough/fever/loss of smell or taste – should I use one of these tests to check if I/they have coronavirus?	<p>No – Lateral Flow Testing Devices should not be used if you have any symptoms of coronavirus.</p> <p>Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a PCR test.</p>
How reliable/effective are LFD kits used at home without a trained professional?	<p>Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. Crucially, when levels of virus are at their highest and people are most likely to pass on the disease, lateral flow tests can detect the vast majority of cases</p> <p>No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. Each positive case identified can help prevent many additional people becoming infected over time. LFD tests are crucial in the fight against the virus.</p> <p>Extensive clinical evaluation has been carried out on the lateral flow tests. Evaluations from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used by individuals in the community.</p> <p>LFD tests identify the most infectious individuals. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them remains important. We believe the ability to self-test at home makes rapid testing even more convenient, accessible and further increases the speed at which people can self-isolate.</p> <p>It is important to remember that these tests are an additional health protection measure in addition to face coverings, social distancing etc.</p>

What about false negatives/positives?	<p>Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. Crucially, when levels of virus are at their highest and people are most likely to pass on the disease, lateral flow tests can detect the vast majority of cases.</p> <p>No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested.</p> <p>Evaluations from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community.</p> <p>All tests have false negatives and false positives to some degree. If an individual with a negative result goes on to develop symptoms, they must self-isolate and book a test as per the government guidelines.</p>
What if I get a positive lateral flow result– Will I need to get a PCR test?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Book a COVID test here: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</p>
How do I report my results?	<p>Individuals with a positive LFD result will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They should report their results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is complete, as set out in the test kit instructions and self-report gov.uk page. This will enable NHS Test and Trace to monitor the spread of the virus.</p> <p>For pupils you should also inform the educational setting of their result so the setting can identify close contacts.</p>
Will there be a helpline/support for households and childcare/support bubble members?	<p>People in England can call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.</p>
Why are we not testing primary school children?	<p>Public Health England have advised that as the rates of COVID amongst primary school pupils broadly reflect the wider community prevalence, and serious COVID related illness is rare in children, regular testing would be very unlikely to keep schools open. In addition, there is no clear indication that any benefit gained by testing this group would outweigh the negative impact on a child's wellbeing with regular swabbing.</p>