



Dear Parents and Carers

Re: LFD Test and Trace - home testing

Firstly, I would like to pay credit to the students who have taken part in school-based asymptomatic testing over the past few weeks. They have approached this with real maturity and have been exceptional in getting used to this routine. I also want to thank the school staff who have been involved in running the testing centre; they have truly done a fantastic job running this so efficiently.

The next stage of the government's strategy for schools, is that testing, following the initial three tests carried out in school, now takes place at home. Students, with parent/carer support, will be asked to test themselves twice a week going forwards at home and report results to the school and to Test and Trace. School staff have been using the home test lateral flow kits for several weeks, as have many work other organisations, and they are straightforward to administer.

We support this initiative as it enables relatively simple, regular testing for asymptomatic cases and therefore reduces the spread of the virus, as individuals and close contacts self-isolate in positive cases. Please remember that anyone with symptoms should NOT use these kits, but should self-isolate and book a PCR test at a testing centre. The lateral flow kits are not a substitute where symptoms are present. Also, please note that if the home-based lateral flow test is positive, this will need to be followed up with a PCR test to confirm. We are told the PCR will override the home-based lateral flow result.

As we wind up school-based testing over this week, students will be issued with kits either at the end of this week or at the start of next to continue with home-based testing. We plan to issue all students with kits to be able to take tests at home. As with school-based testing, consent is optional and so parents/carers can decide whether they wish to use these with their child. We hope that we continue to see the same uptake as we have in school, if not greater.

The tests that the school issue are for the use of our students only and not their wider family members. However, I'm sure that you will also have heard that families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice weekly from home. This testing can be accessed in the following ways:

- 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://www.nhs.uk/covid-19/test-and-trace)
- 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

Below, I have included information from Test and Trace about the kits themselves and how to carry out the lateral flow tests at home, alongside further information that parents and carers may find useful. It is important that results are reported to both NHS Test and Trace and Brockington College.

Thank you for your ongoing support with all that we seek to achieve.

Your sincerely

Sadie Batstone
Principal



Test and Trace - home testing information

Taking test kits home

Students will be given two packs, with three tests in each box, with a separate leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

Taking the test

Students should take a test two times every week. 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 test results.

[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](#).

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

Can students 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. Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

You need to report each test result

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 each test.

If the test is negative or void, please complete [the Brockington College lateral flow test result form](#).

If the test is positive, please complete the [Brockington College reporting a case of Covid-19 form](#).

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and you will be able to attend school whether you take part in testing or not. Please contact Judith Malcolm, our Covid-19 Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Some frequently asked questions

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 need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to Brockington College.

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 Brockington College).

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

Negative and void results should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Brockington College.

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](#).

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](#).

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

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 two 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 - they give rapid results within 30 minutes.

What does it mean if I have a positive result?

If you have a positive antigen LFD test result you, your household and 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 your result to both NHS Test & Trace and to Brockington College.

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 Brockington College).

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

What does it mean if I have a negative result?

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.

What if I have a void result?

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

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

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.

How do you report the result?

Once you have taken the test, you will need to report the result online (whether 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 Brockington College.

Can 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://www.nhs.uk/covid-19/test-and-trace).

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?

To report your result, you will need to share some information about yourself, so that your test result can be traced.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your name
- your test result
- the reference number on the test kit.

You will also need to tell your school or college your test result.

Under UK law, your school or college 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 will share it with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer you health services and guidance if you need to self-isolate. They might also use your data anonymously (without your 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](#).