

March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Regular Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing at Home**

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing, because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we must identify those individuals. **As a school we have supported this by offering three in-school Lateral Flow Tests to all our pupils and staff and by distributing home kits to consenting pupils and staff to enable them to test at home twice a week, 3-4 days apart.**

Our testing programme **in school is now complete and** has been incredibly successful with a very high percentage of engagement from staff and pupils. This has allowed us to ensure we are able to successfully identify and isolate asymptomatic cases, to further prevent the spread of the virus.

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing, easily making it part of their routine, whilst others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children are able to attend school whether they take part or not.

Tests are now free of charge. Pupils who completed tests in school have now been issued with an initial pack of 6 tests, a leaflet giving instructions on how to take the test, and an information letter.

If your child did not complete tests in school and you wish to receive home testing kits, you can order home testing kits here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

### **Taking the test**

Your child should take the test twice a week, preferably every Sunday and Wednesday evening. A leaflet giving instructions has been issued with the test kits.

Help and support is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help> including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results, as well as 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 dispose of it in your normal household waste bin.

Lateral flow testing 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 if the result is positive?**

If your child's test result is positive, please email [covid@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:covid@reddish.stockport.sch.uk) as soon as possible. This will allow school staff to begin identifying possible close contacts and advising them to self-isolate. The email inbox is monitored outside of school hours.

You will also need to report the result to NHS Test and Trace <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> 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 school).

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If your child (or anyone in your household) 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.

### **What should you do if the result is void or negative?**

If the result of the test is void or unclear, you should do another test.

Negative and void results need to be reported to NHS Track and Trace: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-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, 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. A list of symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

### **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 tests up to do at home (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker: <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 here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

### **Why is testing important?**

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. Testing at home will allow your child and other children to attend school as safely as possible and help reduce the spread of the virus.

Thank you for your support.



Headteacher

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can my child take the test themselves?**

Students aged 12 and above should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help them to take the test if they need support. Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

### **How do I report 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?**

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.

### **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 been 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.

### **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 as soon as possible to allow close contact tracing to take place.

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 school).

You can book a test here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

### **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. You can book a test here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>  
All test results need to be reported to NHS Test & Trace.

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

If the tests is positive, you also need to tell the school the test result as soon as possible to allow close contact tracing to take place. If the test is negative, you do not need to report the result to school.

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 NHS Test & Trace.

### **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:

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### **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 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.

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