

**Headteacher:** Mrs H Rigby BA Hons NPQH

14 March 2021



**The Telford  
Park School**

ENSURING EXCELLENCE

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Home testing for Pupils**

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your support during our first week of welcoming all pupils back to school. It has been wonderful to experience the school coming back to life.

### **Updated plan for home testing from 22nd March 2021**

Following on from our initial 'fire break' testing, our 'lateral flow device' (LFD) testing will be moving to **home testing**. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging participation in home testing for our school community. Moving to a home testing programme will allow us to continue the asymptomatic testing currently conducted via on-site testing and ensure that we are effectively isolating COVID-19 outbreaks as they occur. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme as it moves from school to home.

Pupils will be issued with their home testing kits following their third in school test this week (w/c 15<sup>th</sup> March). Home testing kits will only be issued where consent to take part in the testing process has been received. Consent can be removed at any time by contacting the school.

### **Taking the test**

**Home tests will be required twice weekly** (on a Sunday and Wednesday evening). The date of the first home test will be **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March**. We will give pupils a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#). Tests are free of charge.

[Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results.

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](#).

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.



The Telford Park School  
Grange Avenue, Stirchley, Telford, TF3 1FA

## How the tests work

Those taking the test will **require adult supervision**. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be produced by the test strip (lateral flow device).

To ensure timely data that will enable us to isolate close contacts of positive cases effectively, we will require results to be reported **immediately** following test result.

- 1) Please report the result to the school by filling in this [form](#).
- 2) Please report to the NHS: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. When reporting a result to the NHS, you will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result as acknowledgement.

## 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 inform 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 if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. PCR tests can be booked by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) the **pupil and their close contacts will need to self-isolate**. It is important that school is informed as soon as possible via the link when in the case of a positive result. If the confirmatory PCR test returns a positive result the pupil and their close contacts will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

## What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to continue to attend school.

## What if pupils have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The pupil will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. They will be required to [self-isolate](#) as per government guidance.

## What if my child develops symptoms?

The home testing programme is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they

must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please report this to the school as soon as possible.

### **Why take part**

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

In addition, please could we request that parents and carers ensure that pupils do not bring personal hand sanitisers, gels, wipes to site as we need to closely monitor substances in use. We have adequate supply of PPE and cleaning materials on site which are monitored regularly by our site team to ensure the safety of our school community.

Please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by calling 01952 387400 or alternatively via email: [info@telfordparkschool.co.uk](mailto:info@telfordparkschool.co.uk).

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards and best wishes,



Mrs H Rigby

Headteacher

## **Some frequently asked questions**

### **Do I need to give consent?**

Pupils 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 attached.

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

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

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

Pupils aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

### **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.

### **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.

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](#).

### **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 take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

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

### **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 take the test [here](#).

### **How do you report the result?**

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 school via this [form](#).

### **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](http://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.test-and-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](http://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?**

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.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice (attached).