



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Thursday 11th March 2021

Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing at Home

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, as part of the wider opening of school we have been conducting Covid-19 Lateral Flow tests with all consenting students in school. The first round of testing has now been completed at Queen's Park High School and we are getting ready to distribute home testing kits as the second and third tests take place over the next week.

Test kits will be given out at school to all students on a rolling programme and are free of charge. Students will receive 2 boxes of 3 tests (6 tests in total), along with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. The video below also shows how to complete tests at home: [How to do a COVID-19 Self Test \(rapid antigen test\) - YouTube](#)

Students should be tested twice a week - **Monday morning** and **Thursday morning** before school. Testing should also take place before eating breakfast and brushing teeth. Morning tests increase the likelihood of detecting the virus early, reducing any potential transmission in school.

The result of each test must be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Parents must also inform school of the result of each test.

You can report your test result to school by: clicking [Report a Covid-19 result](#), clicking the link on the 'Links' section in EduLink One, or by going to the 'Covid-19 Hub' on the school website.

If a student has a positive test result, they will need to book a PCR test, stay at home and self-isolate while they wait for that result. If the result of the test is unclear (void) they will need to do another one. Test results should always be reported.

It is important to point out that a negative test result does not mean that you can relax from the Government guidelines.

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. We are strongly encouraging all students to take part in the national testing programme.

Additional asymptomatic testing kits are available for parents and adults in households with school and college age children. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online. In our experience this has been the easiest method.

You must not use the school test kits on any other members of your household, they are specifically for students attending school.

Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

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FAQs

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 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, 30 minutes after taking the test.



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How will personal information and test results be shared?

When students take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the student.

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

- their name
- their test result
- the reference number on the test kit

They will also need to tell the school or college their test result.

Under UK law, a 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 a person reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC, who may then share the information with a GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person's 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: <https://www.qphs.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1106&type=pdf>

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dave Helsby
Support Operations Manager