



## **COVID -19 Pupil Home Testing - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can my child 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.

### **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 Hazel Wood High 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.



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## **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 Hazel Wood High 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 do 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 Hazel Wood High School.

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students](#).

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.