



15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### COVID-19 HOME TEST KITS FOR STUDENTS

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this by carrying out COVID-19 tests at home. The Government has recently announced that all secondary and college aged students will be offered home testing kits to make the return to school safer for everyone: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>.

### TESTING SCHEDULE

We would like students to take tests regularly: twice a week, 3 to 4 days apart. Home testing kits are free of charge and students will be able to collect them during Form Time after they have completed their third COVID-19 test in school. Based on the last test that year groups will have taken in school, please see below allocated days for students to conduct their tests at home:

- Years 11, 12 and 13 – **SATURDAYS AND TUESDAYS**
- Years 10 and 8 – **WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS**
- Years 9 and 7 – **THURSDAYS AND MONDAYS**

Wherever possible, please ensure that your child has enough time to do their test **in the morning** before going to school on their allocated testing days. We understand that this may be challenging for some families, therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if the morning is not possible.

Please note that home testing does not replace symptomatic testing. If you, your child, or anyone else in the household or support bubble have symptoms, you should all self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

### TAKING THE TEST

Students will receive an initial pack of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet explaining how to take the test and how to report the results. There is also a useful video showing how to take the test: [click here](#). Instructions in different languages can be found on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO AFTER THE TEST?



**POSITIVE RESULT:** If the result is positive, then you, your child and anyone else in the household and support bubble should self-isolate immediately for 10 days in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance. The positive result must be reported to [NHS Test and Trace](#) and the [OSA Student LFT Reporting Site](#).

You should also order a confirmatory PCR test: [click here](#).



**NEGATIVE RESULT:** The negative result must be reported to [NHS Test and Trace](#) and the [OSA Student LFT Reporting Site](#). A negative result does not guarantee that your child is not carrying the virus so they should continue to follow social distancing and other measures to reduce transmission, such as wearing a face mask, regularly washing hands and observing social distancing. If you or anyone in your household or support bubble develop symptoms of the virus you should follow national guidelines on self-isolation and testing: [click here](#).



**VOID RESULT:** If the result of the test is unclear (void), another test should be taken. The void result must be reported to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and the [OSA Student LFT Reporting Site](#). You must report each test result.

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).

#### WHY TAKE PART

Taking part in COVID-19 testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. I am strongly encouraging all students to take part: testing at home will allow your child and other children to attend school as safely as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about home testing, please contact us at the school on 01707 264228 or [admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk).

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

David Bullock  
Headteacher



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **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 and the privacy notice attached to the email that details how personal information and test results are shared.

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

- Students aged 18 and over should do the test and report the result themselves with help if they need it.
- Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves and report the result 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.

### **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 the following website link:

<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 can be found on the following website: <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 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 students 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 for 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 the positive result to both NHS Test & Trace and the 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. They should continue to follow social distancing and other measures to reduce transmission, such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing 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](#).

#### **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 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?**

All test results need to be reported to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and on the [OSA Student LFT Reporting Site](#). You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

#### **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 or pick up tests to do at home. You can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker here: [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. You can find your nearest collection site here: [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/covid-19-test-finder).

If none of these options are possible for you, there will be a supply of rapid tests available for ordering online for people who need them the most. More information can be found here: [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).

#### **How will personal information and test results be shared?**

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result so that their test result can be traced. This means that you need to share some information about your child.



You will 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.

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.

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.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing, please see the COVID-19 Privacy Notice for Student Home Test Kits.