

Rapid Covid-19 – Lateral Flow Testing for households and families of school age children and staff.

<p>How Reliable/effective are LFD kits used at home without a trained professional?</p>	<p>Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. Crucially, when levels of virus are at their highest and people are most likely to pass on the disease, lateral flow tests can detect the vast majority of cases</p> <p>No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. Each positive case identified can help prevent many additional people becoming infected over time. LFD tests are crucial in the fight against the virus.</p> <p>Extensive clinical evaluation has been carried out on the lateral flow tests. Evaluations from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used by individuals in the community.</p> <p>LFD tests identify the most infectious individuals. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them remains important. We believe the ability to self-test at home makes rapid testing even more convenient, accessible and further increases the speed at which people can self-isolate.</p> <p>It is important to remember that these tests are an additional health protection measure in addition to face coverings, social distancing etc.</p>
<p>If these tests are so effective why do people need a confirmatory PCR test after doing the test at home?</p>	<p>In line with clinical advice, confirmatory PCR testing will remain in place for individuals that are testing at home, in order to minimise the risk that incorrectly reported positive results are registered.</p>
<p>Has the MHRA approved this? I thought it hadn't.</p>	<p>The MHRA have authorised the Lateral Flow Device self-test kits for use at home.</p>
<p>How Reliable/effective are LFD kits used at home without a trained professional?</p>	<p>Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals.</p>

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<p>Will testing replace self-isolation (Daily contact testing)?</p>	<p>No. This testing does not replace isolation. Daily contact testing (where daily testing can replace isolation) is still under evaluation and does not form part of this testing.</p> <p>Accordingly, individuals with a positive LFD result along with close contacts will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the stay-at-home guidance. Individuals need to report all test results, positive, negative or voids to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is complete, as set out in the test kit instructions and self-report gov.uk page. This will enable NHS Test and Trace to monitor the spread of the virus. They should also inform their educational setting of their result so the setting can identify close contacts, who will also need to self-isolate.</p>

	<p>They must book a confirmatory PCR test online, then continue to isolate for 10 days if the PCR test result is positive. The individual should also inform their educational setting of a positive PCR result.</p>
<p>What if people don't have access to internet/digital – how will they report results?</p>	<p>People in England can report results via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.</p>
<p>Will there be training to help individuals do the test properly?</p>	<p>All of the information needed to allow an individual to participate in testing will be included in the instructions. Detailed information on how to self-swab and use the at home LFD tests can be found in the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'instructions for use' handbook (v 1.3.2) • 'how to' guide • YouTube video series covering a 'step to step guide to covid-19 self-testing'
<p>How will households and childcare/support bubble members receive the home tests?</p>	<p>We are encouraging households and childcare/support bubble members to get asymptomatic tests twice a week, which can be done through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who are households/support bubbles of children and also cannot work from home, may have access to onsite workplace testing and should enquire with their employer. • Attend their local community testing site, which can be found via their council website or the gov.uk postcode checker: https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site • Rapid lateral flow self-test kits can be collected from more than 500 local and regional test sites. Find the nearest at www.find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk Test sites are open for

	<p>the collection of tests from 13:30-19:00, seven days a week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those who cannot access these options a new online ordering service has a supply of test kits for home delivery. visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
<p>How will school staff and pupils get access to tests?</p>	<p>Primary staff are able to collect home tests from their schools to enable them to test twice weekly.</p> <p>Secondary staff are able to get twice-weekly testing in school at the moment, but will be able to collect test kits for home testing in the coming week</p> <p>Secondary pupils will have access to on site testing on their return to school. After 3 tests 3-5 days apart, they will be supplied with home test kits to continue twice weekly testing at home.</p>
<p>How can the tests be returned?</p>	<p>The vast majority of tests used are lateral flow devices which give a result in around 30 minutes. As such, there is no need to return these devices. Once a test is complete, the device can be disposed of as domestic waste.</p> <p>Where a confirmatory PCR test is delivered by post, you should ideally post the completed test kit through a priority post-box no later than 1 hour before last collection. Weekend collection times may differ from weekdays. Do not take your test on a bank holiday, take it on the following day instead, so it can be collected on time.</p> <p>To check collection times at your nearest Royal Mail priority postbox:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Go to Royal Mail: services near you Click the 'Show my nearest priority postboxes' tickbox Enter the postcode of where you're staying and select the address View priority postboxes near you and check the collection times

	<p>If you're unable to get to a priority postbox without using public transport, or unable to follow the government's social distancing guidelines, are shielding, classed as vulnerable, or too unwell to leave your home, call us for guidance on when to take your test and how to book a courier collection: People in England can call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.</p>
<p>What if there are no local community testing sites? Isn't this a postcode lottery?</p>	<p>As of 26 February, 296 out of 314 Lower Tier Local Authorities (LTLAs) have started testing, with the remainder due to commence shortly. The programme has been expanded until at least the end of June. The current focus of community testing is on people who need to leave home for essential reasons, such as those who are unable to work from home, during the national restrictions so that we can protect their safety and wellbeing. This enables Local Authorities to focus on the right people in their areas and decide how the testing is best delivered.</p>
<p>What about false negatives/positives?</p>	<p>Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. Crucially, when levels of virus are at their highest and people are most likely to pass on the disease, lateral flow tests can detect the vast majority of cases.</p> <p>No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. LFD tests are either CE marked or approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and are crucial in the fight against the virus.</p> <p>Evaluations from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community.</p>

	<p>All tests have false negatives and false positives to some degree. If an individual with a negative result goes on to develop symptoms, they must self-isolate and book a test as per the government guidelines.</p>
<p>Will there be a helpline/support for households and childcare/support bubble members?</p>	<p>People in England can call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.</p>
<p>When can households and childcare/support bubble members start getting a test?</p>	<p>Asymptomatic testing for household and childcare/support bubble members will be made available to eligible individuals from 1st March.</p>
<p>If someone else in my household/bubble tests positive but I test negative do I still need to isolate?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If I test positive does my primary school aged child need to have a test?</p>	<p>As a close contact of a positive case, they should self-isolate for 10 days</p>
<p>If the parent of a child in my class tests positive does the whole class have to isolate?</p>	<p>Only close contacts of the positive case need to self-isolate. This will be determined for those in school, by the school. It will be determined for those outside of school by NHS Test & Trace.</p>
<p>How can I find a collection site?</p>	<p>There are over 500 local and regional test sites offering a collection service. Find your nearest at</p> <p>https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/</p>
<p>How do I report my results?</p>	<p>Individuals with a positive LFD result will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They should report their results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is complete, as set out in the test kit instructions and self-report gov.uk page. This will enable NHS Test and Trace to monitor the spread of the virus.</p> <p>They should also inform their educational setting of their result so the setting can identify close contacts. They must book a confirmatory PCR test online, then continue to isolate for 10 days if the PCR test result is positive. The individual should also</p>

	<p>inform their school, college or nursery of a positive PCR result.</p> <p>If you have a negative PCR test following a positive LFD test, you and your household can stop isolating as per the NHS stay at home guidance.</p>
How long will we need to do this testing for?	Rapid and regular testing will be available throughout the term time and the two-week Easter holiday.
Where do multigenerational families access asymptomatic testing?	<p>We encourage multigenerational families to get asymptomatic tests through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a Community Testing site available in their area; • Collect a home test kit from a Collection Point (RTS / LTS / MTU); • Order a home test kit online.
Where do families with one partner childminding and another unable to work from home access asymptomatic testing?	<p>We encourage families with one partner childminding and another unable to work from home to get their asymptomatic tests through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a Community Testing site available in their area; • Collect a home test kit from a Collection Point (RTS / LTS / MTU); • Order a home test kit online.
Should children of primary school age get tested twice a week?	Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.
What is the main booking website for parents and support bubbles to order test kits?	For those who cannot access test through any other route a new online ordering service has a supply of test kits for home delivery. Visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
When people are collecting kits from a local or regional test site to they need to book?	There is no need to book. The sites are open for the collection of test kits from 13:30-19:00, seven days a week.
Is it going to be possible in some instances to switch off the collections if more time is needed for the PCR sites to have people with symptoms booking?	Yes. The priority for the sites is for provision of PCR testing. Whilst demand for PCR testing is low, there is a clear underutilised capability to provide additional services.

	<p>However, if demand for PCR testing increases markedly, time will be reallocated to testing operations.</p>
<p>Will there be monitoring in place to ensure that symptomatic cases do not rise with a restriction in available hours for PCR testing?</p>	<p>Yes. Our priority remains PCR testing, and should there be a rise in case rates in any geography, we would revert to provision of testing.</p> <p>PCR sites (RTS / LTS / MTU) will continue to accept customers for symptomatic PCR tests between 0800 – 1200 and will be closed for deep cleaning between 1200 – 1330. The Lateral Flow Devices collection windows will be between 1330 – 1900.</p> <p>Note: There is a strict cleaning regime for all test sites which means that facilities are cleaned multiple times a day to ensure very high standards of hygiene. Waste is removed on a regular basis.</p>
<p>Will there be a ramp up in PCR testing to support the need to support confirmatory tests in schools?</p>	<p>There is adequate capacity at the moment to cover any requirement for confirmatory PCR testing.</p>