

1 March 2021

Dear families and staff

I hope you are all well and thank you once more for your ongoing support of all of our children as we look forward to welcoming all children back into our schools. This is an exciting time to bring our school communities back together and we would also like to reassure you that we continue to work to all of the guidance to ensure our schools are as safe as they can possibly be.

As part of this you may have seen that the government has announced the further roll-out of lateral flow testing (LFT) for wider members of the school community and this includes:

- secondary school pupils
- primary and secondary school staff
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary staff

**It has also been confirmed that there is no requirement for primary school pupils to test at this time.**

Testing of the above groups is strongly encouraged as another measure to add to existing measures to keep our schools safe but is not mandatory. Our school staff have had access to this testing since it was made available and the process has been very straightforward, safe, easy to administer and has added to the level of safety in our schools and we thank all staff that have been able to engage with this process.

**In terms of access to tests for families of children and staff in primary schools:**

Primary school staff: will continue to access these via school supply and schools will continue to order tests for staff use.

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

**Get a test through your employer**

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

**Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site**

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)

### **Collect test kits**

You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests.

Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

### **Order home test kits online**

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. This service will launch on 1 March and you can order via this link: [Schools testing: Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The full guidance on the roll out of testing to families of primary children and staff can be found using the link below:

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **What does twice-weekly testing involve?**

You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (each week 3 or 4 days apart)
- report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test [Report your test result online](#) or by calling 119.

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including:

- regular handwashing
  - social distancing
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- wearing a face covering where recommended

As always, we are here to support you and thank you for all you continue to do, not just to support the education and wellbeing of all children but for keeping our schools safe.

With very best wishes



Chris Wheatley – CEO of the Flying High Partnership