

PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL STAFF ON COVID-19 TESTING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS (including PVI nurseries)

Why is getting tested important?

We know that around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms, but can still pass the virus on.

Rapid tests are designed to pick up a high proportion of people with the infection who are **not symptomatic** but are infectious to others. Anyone with a positive result can start to self-isolate straight away, significantly reducing the risk of further transmission.

We hope that staff will recognise the benefits and take up the offer of getting regular rapid tests.

What is rapid testing?

- Simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests are used to test people, without the need for a laboratory
- Rapid testing is for people who have **no symptoms** of coronavirus
- Rapid testing is **really effective**, alongside other COVID-19 safety measures
- To do the test, you wipe a swab (like a cotton bud) at the back of your throat and up your nose. It is a bit uncomfortable, but it does not hurt

What do staff in Primary Schools, Early Years and nurseries need to know?

- The **tests are quick to do** and results are usually available in less than 30 minutes
- The testing is **voluntary**. But we appeal to all staff to **test every 3-4 days** to keep the levels of the virus in the community as low as possible
- Testing kits will be supplied by DfE /Test and Trace to schools who will issue them to staff to do the test at home
- People who have been vaccinated should still take the test
- **Staff with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school or nursery and use protective measures**

Adult members of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you will be able to get twice-weekly test if you have **no symptoms**. These will be available:

- through your employer (if they offer testing to employees)
- at a local community test site
- by ordering a home test kit online
- collecting from a local testing site (information to follow).

To learn more about staff household members testing visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff

Please note that you cannot collect a home test kit from a test site in Islington. Test sites only offer on-site testing.

What to do if you test positive?

- Staff with a positive LFD test will need to self-isolate in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#)
- Staff will also need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result if they get a positive test [using a home testing kit](#)
- If you test positive you [and your close contacts](#) will be required to self-isolate for 10 days
- If any of the close contacts go on to develop symptoms should stay at home and get a test on <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling **119**
- If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms

Things to remember:

- Schedule testing into your weekly routines to make it as easy as possible
- Don't rely on other people's testing results to avoid getting tested yourself (a member of your family or colleagues might have tested negative, but you might still have coronavirus)
- Remember that coronavirus doesn't always have symptoms and you could be feeling well but still pass the infection on to others
- Encourage members of your household to test themselves twice a week
- If you test positive you may be eligible for a £500 [Test and Trace Support Payment](#)

To learn more, watch the rapid testing video for council key workers - [YouTube](#)

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For further information on Lateral Flow Device testing see the Frequently Asked Questions sheet link to <https://www.islingtoncs.org/node/19277>