

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

# INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL STAFF ON COVID-19 TESTING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

## 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 secondary schools and further education staff 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 to schools by DfE /Test and Trace who will issue them to staff to do the test at home
- Pupils will get tested three times (3-5 days apart) when they first return back to school/ college and after that they will be provided with home test kits to test themselves twice a week
- People who have been vaccinated should still take the test

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](https://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 [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://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

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### Things to remember:

- 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](#)

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

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