

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

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 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:

- 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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