

Dear Parent/ Carer or student,

NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Home Testing

I would like to start by congratulating all the students on their exemplary conduct during mass testing in school. The staff and volunteers working in the testing centre have commented on the wonderful behaviour and maturity shown by the students over the past six days of testing.

Following the mass testing in school, testing will now continue at home for those students who have consented.

Testing students at home

Home test kits are now available and will be issued to students following their 3rd lateral flow test. Students will receive 2 packs containing 3 tests in each with a leaflet on how to take the tests and report results.

We would like the tests to be taken before school on Monday and Thursday morning each week. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed.

There is no need to keep the used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

Taking the test

There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

The results of each test will need to be reported to [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to [school](#).

If you are experiencing any difficulties with the Microsoft Forms link please inform us via admin@ripogrammar.com with the heading 'Home testing' and we will resolve the issue.

If your child tests **positive they, your household and any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You should book a confirmatory PCR test for your child.

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test. All test results including **negative and void results** should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and [school](#).

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. However, Government guidance is that students are strongly encouraged to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Please see the frequently asked questions (document attached) and contact admin@ripogrammar.com, using the heading 'Home Testing' should you have any further questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs H Keelan-Edwards
Deputy Headteacher

Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information on the schools [privacy notice](#).

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and [school](#), regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it. Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the student to take the test if they need support. Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** and please also inform the school via admin@ripogrammar.com with the subject heading 'Home testing'.

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus. The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have been tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus

LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both NHS Test & Trace and your school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands.

What if my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and [school](#).

Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit.

How do you report the result?

You need to report the result using the link in the email to Microsoft Forms. You will also need to register the result on NHS Test and Trace. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test and Trace confirming that you have reported your result.

Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information.
- attend a test site to get tested where you will be able to see how to take the test or pick up tests to do at home (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests