



19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important information was released by the government at the weekend concerning the availability of lateral flow testing for families of primary pupils. This information has been taken from the following document:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=ca1c659b-95d6-490e-87c6-d6c09e85ecfb&utm_content=daily

The most relevant points for yourselves as families of primary aged pupils are noted below. If you have older children, letters will have been sent from their secondary schools.

The use of lateral flow testing is completely voluntary and parents should not feel under any pressure to take part. However, I can say, from a personal point of view it makes me feel safer and more confident.

Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff – About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

The following people in England will have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing made available to them as schools reopen:

- **secondary school pupils** – you will have been informed if this applies to an older sibling.
- **primary and secondary school staff** – we have had this in place since the end of January in school.
- **households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils** – new information see below.
- **households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary staff** – new information see below.

How to get a rapid lateral flow test - There are different ways to get a test for members of a pupil's household, childcare and support bubbles in England who do not have symptoms of coronavirus.

Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils - From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble for staff or for a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test kit:

- 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

These kits should be used by adults rather than the children. **Primary school pupils are not being asked to test at this time.**



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. The closest ones are Rivermead Leisure Centre and South Reading Leisure Centre. [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. The online service to find your nearest home test kit collection point is here: [Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#) Prospect Park Car Park and The University of Reading, The Great Hall, London Road are the current collection points.

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. Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most. [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

What twice-weekly testing involves - You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (every 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. This is really quick and easy.

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
- wearing a face covering where recommended

Warmest regards,

Louise Burridge
Principal