

LATERAL FLOW TESTING – HOME TESTING INFORMATION GUIDE

We strongly support that as a school community, we must use all of the tools available to us to combat the transmission of COVID-19. These tools range from vaccination, symptomatic testing, improving medicines, self-isolation regulations and non-pharmaceutical interventions like hands-face-space. Asymptomatic testing is a further and critical tool to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

On its own, asymptomatic testing will not prevent the transmission of COVID-19 but used with the other tools available (to us) it will help us to:

- Identify and help to prevent staff and students without symptoms from transmitting and spreading the virus unknowingly.
- Allow us to operate as safely as possible by self-isolating those that are the most contagious as soon as is practical.

Asymptomatic testing is done via simple and quick tests, known as 'Lateral Flow Device' (LFD) tests. They enable us to rapidly test students and staff. No test is 100% accurate, but when done as part of a testing regime is very good at picking up those with high viral loads (i.e. those that are the most contagious).

Chase Terrace Academy has welcomed students back to face to face education from 8 March 2021 and is currently operating a rapid asymptomatic testing programme. All students (who have consented) will have 3 tests onsite, each 3 to 5 days apart using LFDs. This testing programme will conclude on Thursday 18 March when we will then move to a home testing programme from Sunday 21 March.

When will home testing need to take place?

Students will be provided with home test kits on Friday 19 March. We recommend that from Sunday 21 March, students are tested twice a week every Sunday and Wednesday evening. We will continue to issue test kits to students every three weeks.

Does my child have to have a test?

Testing is not compulsory but strongly encouraged for the safety of all students, staff and visitors within our school community. Students who have had a positive test result in the last 90 days are not required to be tested, unless they choose to be.

How the tests work

The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Full instructions are contained within the home test kits and we ask parents/carers to read and understand the instructions before testing commences. Results should be taken from the lateral flow device at exactly 30 minutes from the point the sample is applied to the test. A reading under or over 30 minutes could give an invalid or false result.


How do I assist my child with conducting a self-swab?

Please refer to the instruction manual sent home with your child (DO NOT refer to the instruction guide contained within the test kit box as the Government has issued new guidance. Please discard the instructions held within the test kit box). You may find it useful


to watch this video before supervising the first test with your child
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>


How do I know if my child is positive, negative or has a 'void' result?

Please refer to the instruction manual contained within the home test kits. For avoidance of doubt a key is provided below:

 **Positive result: Self-isolate immediately and take a PCR test, following the current public health guidance**



 **Void result: Take another LFD test. If you receive 2 void results in a row you should book a PCR test.**

 **Negative result: No need to self-isolate, you can go to your workplace or education setting.**

What if my child's lateral flow result is positive?

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following a positive test at home, a confirmatory 'PCR' laboratory test should be booked online or by calling 119.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the student and their close contacts should self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, those with a negative lateral flow test can continue to attend school unless they have individually been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact). They should continue to apply the measures in the system of controls to themselves and the wider school setting.

Do I have to report the result?

Yes. You are required to report each test result, whether it is positive, negative or void to school and to NHS Test and Trace.

To report each test result to school, please scan this QR code (which is also on external test kit boxes) and complete the online form. This data will be stored on the schools 'COVID-19 Test Register'.

You are also required to visit the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and report each test result to NHS Test and Trace. Please refer to the 'Privacy Statement'.



Do I use a lateral flow device if my child has symptoms?

Please ensure that you check this with your child before their lateral flow test is conducted. If your child has symptoms they should not attend school and a 'PCR' laboratory test should be arranged instead.

What if students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

We will take swift action in the event of a positive test result. We will continue to work closely with the dedicated advice service introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. They work with us and guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on their advice, we will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate immediately and for the next 10 full days counting from the day after contact with the individual who tested positive.

Do I have to give written consent the same as when my child was tested in school?

Parents/carers are not required to provide written consent for their child to be tested at home. By opening the test kit and conducting the test, consent is given.

What data will be processed as part of the home testing programme?

Please refer to the 'Privacy Statement' for full details of what data will be collected and processed.

Thank you for your ongoing support with our testing programme, supporting us in maintaining a safe learning environment for our staff and students. If you have any queries, please contact us via email at office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk.