

Some frequently asked questions

How do I report 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 us at Prince Henry's.

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 via [this website](#).

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 about how LFD tests work is available [here](#).

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 got 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 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 national guidance and the in-school protocols.

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 - they give rapid results within 30 minutes

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 updated leaflet [here](#).

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

No, your child's test kit from school must not be used by anyone else.

However, anyone who does not have symptoms can get regular rapid lateral flow tests to check for COVID-19 from local pharmacies or online. You can find more information [here](#).

How will personal information and test results be shared?

To report your result, you will need to share some information about your child, so that their test result can be traced.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your child's name
- their test result
- the reference number on the test kit

Under UK law, the school collects and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.

Schools will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They will share it with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer you health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without your name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice on the school website [here](#).