

Staff and pupil/student testing – quick, safe, easy

Staff, pupils and students will be tested using a validated Lateral Flow Device.

Up to a **third of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 have no symptoms** at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. That is why the testing of people without symptoms is vital. Identifying those individuals will save lives. This is what is known as ‘**mass testing**’.

Initially testing will be provided for **all secondary pupils students and staff** as they return from the Christmas holidays. After this, **staff will be tested once a week** on an ongoing basis.

Pupils, students and staff will be tested if they come into contact with a positive case. This new approach, known as ‘**serial contact testing**’, will allow those who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school or college if they agree to be tested for 7 days* following last contact with a positive case.

Quick

Swabbing and processing of these tests will be conducted at a dedicated testing site in the school or college with **results available in around 30 minutes**.

Safe

These tests work. In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they

were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.8% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

When used in combination with **other measures such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), washing hands regularly and social distancing**, these tests further reduce the risk of transmission. We must not relax any of these measures – this testing programme is in addition to them.

Easy

Lateral flow devices **do not require a laboratory** to process the test. The devices are designed to be intuitive and require minimal training to operate.



Lateral Flow Testing



Accessible and easy to use



No lab required, with fast results



Safe technology

* If staff, pupils or students cannot take a test (e.g. on the weekend) they should self-isolate for that day, and resume serial contact testing on their return to school / college. If they return after the 7 days are finished, then they should take one final test, and if it is negative they can return to school/college.