

**CAUTION: Please note the information below is correct at the time of its publication (05/03/2021). We understand that this is a rapidly changing area and we recommend you regularly visit the latest Government guidance for the most up to date information – links below.**

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance](#)
- [Rapid asymptomatic testing in specialist settings- GOV.UK](#)
- [Asymptomatic testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries](#)
- [Position statement regarding daily contact testing in schools from PHE and NHS Test and Trace - GOV.UK](#)

For any questions on testing email [RapidTesting.SCHOOLS@education.gov.uk](mailto:RapidTesting.SCHOOLS@education.gov.uk), or call the DfE coronavirus helpline on 0800 046 8687 and select option 7.

*N.B: Lateral Flow Device Testing programme **does not** replace the current testing programme for those with symptoms. Anyone who is [showing symptoms](#) of coronavirus (COVID-19) should still self-isolate immediately according to the government guidelines. Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus. **Table below applies to those who do not have symptoms of COVID-19.***

**FAQs on the use and interpretation of Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD) – please follow the column that applies to you**

	Primary school, school-based nursery and maintained nursery		Secondary school and colleges	
	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil)	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil/student)
A- Am I offered an LFD test?	Yes	<a href="#">Not at present</a>	Yes	Yes
B- Where do I perform this test?	At home	Not applicable	<a href="#">From 8 March, first three</a> samples (3-5 days apart) would take place at the school - on-site Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS)	<a href="#">From 8 March, first three</a> samples (3-5 days apart) would take place at the school in a supervised way - on-site Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) <sup>1,2</sup>
C- How often I need to perform this test?	<a href="#">Twice weekly</a> (3-4 days apart) and ongoing	Not applicable	After the first 3 samples (above), further testing to take place at home - <a href="#">Twice weekly</a> (3-5 days apart) and ongoing	After the first 3 samples (above), further testing to take place at home <sup>3</sup> - <a href="#">Twice weekly</a> (3-5 days apart) and ongoing

<sup>1</sup> Once pupils have been tested 3 times at school, they will be provided with home test kits for regular testing. Testing remains voluntary but strongly encouraged – source of information is [here](#)

<sup>2</sup> You have the flexibility to consider how best to deliver testing on a phased basis from 8 March, depending on your circumstances and local arrangements, but you should prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and year groups 10 to 13 -- source of information is [here](#)

<sup>3</sup> Schools should retain a small on-site ATS on site so they can offer testing to pupils who are unable or unwilling to test themselves at home – source of information is [here](#)

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	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil)	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil/student)
D- What if my LFD test is negative?	<p>You can continue to attend school and use protective measures - unless you have been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact).</p> <p>You will need to report the outcome of your test as per <a href="#">instructions</a> in home test kit.</p>	Not applicable	No action and you can continue to attend school and use protective measures - unless you have been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact).	No action and you can continue to attend school and use protective measures - unless you have been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact).
E- What if my LFD test is positive?	<p>1E). You will need to inform school and self-isolate in line with the <a href="#">stay-at-home guidance</a>.</p> <p>2E). Your household members must isolate for 10 days as well, starting from the date of your positive LFD test – or symptoms onset date if you developed symptoms.</p> <p>3E). You will need to report the outcome of your test as per <a href="#">instructions</a> in home test kit.</p> <p>4E). You will also need to <a href="#">arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test</a> to confirm the result.</p>	Not applicable	<p>1E). If you have symptoms of COVID-19, OR if <b>your test was carried out at home</b> then you would need to arrange to have a PCR <a href="#">test</a></p> <p>2E). You will need to inform school and start your isolation in line with the <a href="#">stay-at-home guidance</a>.</p> <p>3E). Your household members must start isolation for 10 days starting from the date of your positive LFD test – or symptoms onset date if you developed symptoms.</p> <p>If your test <b>was carried out at your school (ATS)</b>, then you would not be required to have a confirmatory PCR – and you and your household would need to continue with isolation advice.</p>	<p>1E). If you have symptoms of COVID-19, OR if <b>your test was carried out at home</b> then you would need to arrange to have a PCR <a href="#">test</a></p> <p>2E). You will need to inform school and start your isolate in line with the <a href="#">stay-at-home guidance</a>.</p> <p>3E). Your household members must start isolation for 10 days as well starting from the date of your positive LFD test – or symptoms onset date if you developed symptoms.</p> <p>If your test <b>was carried out at your school (ATS)</b>, then you would not be required to have a confirmatory PCR – and you and your household would need to continue with isolation advice.</p>

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F- What actions would be needed by my <b>school</b> if my LFD test is positive?	<p>1F). Your school would need to carry out contact tracing to identify your close contacts.</p> <p>2F). Any close contacts identified would also need to isolate for 10 days from the date of their last exposure.</p> <p>N.B:– <u>7 days of daily contact testing in close contacts has been paused and hence not needed, UNLESS your school is part of the DHSC supported pilot programme of daily contact testing.</u></p>	<p>If you are identified, by your school, as a close contact of the staff who tested positive on LFD test, then you would need to follow advice from school on self-isolation.</p>	<p>1F). If your LFD test was carried out at school (ATS), then your school would advise/arrange for you to safely return home. <i>Please note if your LFD test was carried out at an ATS then you do not need a confirmatory PCR</i></p> <p>2F). Your school will carry out contact tracing to identify your close contacts</p> <p>3F). Any close contacts identified would also need to isolate for 10 days from the date of last exposure.</p> <p>N.B:– <u>7 days of daily contact testing in close contacts has been paused and hence not needed, UNLESS your school is part of the DHSC supported pilot programme of daily contact testing.</u></p>	<p>1F). If your LFD test was carried out at school (ATS), then your school would arrange your safe return to your home. <i>Please note if your LFD test was carried out at an ATS then you do not need a confirmatory PCR</i></p> <p>2F). Your school will carry out contact tracing to identify your close contacts</p> <p>3F). Any close contacts identified would also need to isolate for 10 days from the date of last exposure.</p> <p>N.B:– <u>7 days of daily contact testing in close contacts has been paused and hence not needed, UNLESS your school is part of the DHSC supported pilot programme of daily contact testing.</u></p>
G- What if my confirmatory PCR test comes back as positive (+/- symptoms)	<p>Actions in row titled E and F would continue as planned except for actions 3E, 4E as these are not applicable anymore.</p>	<p>If you are identified, by your school, as a close contact of the staff who initially tested positive on LFD test and now has a positive confirmatory PCR then you would need to continue with the original</p>	<p><i>Please note that you only require a confirmatory PCR when you carry out LFD test at home</i></p> <p>Following actions from the above rows titled E and F would still apply and continue as planned</p> <p>(2E, 3E, 2F, 3F)</p>	<p><i>Please note that you only require a confirmatory PCR when you carry out LFD test at home</i></p> <p>Following actions from the above rows titled E and F would still apply and continue as planned</p> <p>(2E, 3E, 2F, 3F)</p>

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		advice on self-isolation.		
Why a confirmatory PCR test is needed when LFD test is carried out at home but there is no such requirement when LFD test is carried out at an ATS?	Due to the high prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections in England, the government has temporarily removed confirmatory PCR testing for LFD tests taken at <b>test sites</b> , such as those in education settings. This follows advice from Public Health England (PHE) that, when coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence rates are high, the performance of LFDs and PCRs are broadly comparable when used at testing sites with systematic operating procedures, significantly reducing the need for <u>routine</u> confirmatory testing. <b>This policy will be kept under constant review in line with rates of infection<sup>4</sup>.</b>			
H- What if my confirmatory PCR test comes back as negative and I do not have symptoms of COVID-19?	If this PCR test result is negative, and you have no symptoms of COVID-19, you and your household can stop isolating.  Your close contacts can stop isolating too	You can also return to school if you were initially identified as a close contact of the staff who has now tested negative on his/her PCR test	<b>If you required a PCR test</b> and it is negative, and you have no symptoms of COVID-19, then you and your household can stop isolating.  Your close contacts can stop isolating too	<b>If you required a PCR test</b> and it is negative, and you have no symptoms of COVID-19, then you and your household can stop isolating.  Your close contacts can stop isolating too
I- Do I need to restart LFD test, once I return to school after my isolation period of a positive PCR test?	It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result <u>should not be re-tested</u> within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. If, however, you do have <u>an LFD test within 90 days</u> of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, and the result of this test is positive,	Not applicable	It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result <u>should not be re-tested</u> within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. If, however, you do have <u>an LFD test within 90 days</u> of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, and the result	It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result <u>should not be re-tested</u> within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. If, however, you do have <u>an LFD test within 90 days</u> of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, and the result

<sup>4</sup> Guidance - Rapid asymptomatic testing in specialist settings – Updated 01 March – see link [here](#)

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	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil)	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil/student)
	you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.		of this test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.	of this test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.
J- Do I need to restart LFD test, once I return to school after my isolation period of a positive LFD test?	Given that your initial LFD test was carried out at home, you were required to have a confirmatory PCR – if your PCR test was confirmed as positive then the information in row above (I) would apply. If, your confirmatory PCR was negative and you came out of isolation, then you can resume the twice weekly LFD test.	Not applicable	<p>If your <b>LFD test was carried out at home</b> – then you were required to have a confirmatory PCR test. If this confirmatory PCR test was positive, then information in the row above (I) would apply. If your confirmatory PCR test was negative, and you came out of isolation, then yes you can resume the twice weekly LFD tests.</p> <p>If your <b>LFD test was carried out at an ATS</b>, and hence you were not required to have a confirmatory PCR, then yes you can resume twice weekly LFD test after completion of your isolation period.</p>	<p>If your <b>LFD test was carried out at home</b> – then you were required to have a confirmatory PCR test. If this confirmatory PCR test was positive, then information in the row above (I) would apply. If your confirmatory PCR test was negative, and you came out of isolation, then yes you can resume the twice weekly LFD tests.</p> <p>If your <b>LFD test was carried out at an ATS</b>, and hence you were not required to have a confirmatory PCR, then yes you can resume twice weekly LFD test after completion of your isolation period.</p>