



Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) FAQs – March 2021

TESTING

How will the lateral flow testing work?

All students will be offered 3 lateral flow tests when they return to school supervised by trained members of KC staff. The LFT tests must be spaced between 3-5 days apart. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of your nose and throat. There will be extra support for those with an EHCP or who have an anxiety about the testing.

Once students have been tested, they will return to their normal lesson and remain within their consistent teaching group to avoid spreading the virus should anyone test positive. Results take approximately half an hour from testing to be identified. The following Youtube clip shows the testing procedure <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebxhEOLfTNO>

Individuals testing positive will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance for households for those with a possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. The student should then take a confirmatory PCR test to validate the positive result.

Why should my child get tested if they have no symptoms?

Lateral flow tests are designed to detect the level of virus in individuals who do not experience and show any symptoms, but who could still be infectious and pass the virus to others. By taking a test, you will help to stop the spread of the virus, protect other people and save lives.

What if I don't want my child to have a test?

Testing is not mandatory and any student who does not wish to take the three LFD tests after the recent lockdown period can access their lessons as normal. Testing is however strongly encouraged.

What happens if a school cannot get the consent and the child turns up to school?

Participation in the programme requires active consent from the person being tested, or, if they are under 16, their parent or /legal guardian. Any student who does not take part in testing will still be able to attend school unless they develop symptoms or have been in close contact with a positive case.

If my child has recently tested positive for Covid 19 should they take part in the LFT testing?

If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the virus. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. 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 should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. If, however, you do have an antigen LFD test within 90 days of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, for example as part of a workplace or community testing programme, and the result of this test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again. If it is more than 90 days since you tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, and you have new symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive antigen LFD or PCR test, follow the steps in this guidance again.

What happens after the third LFT?

The expectation is that students will then complete LFT at home completing 2 tests a week spread, between 3 and 5 days. More information will follow shortly on this.

I'm feeling really anxious about the testing what can I do?

This is a challenging situation for us all to be in. The safety precautions such as staff wearing full PPE in the test centre, as well as the re-purposing of a space can feel intimidating to some of our students. It is completely normal that we might feel anxious about this on some level. The testing is safe, quick and does not hurt if we follow the guidelines and instructions given. We don't want anyone feeling anxious by this. Our staff are on hand in the testing centre to support.

RESULTS

After LFD testing - the results take up to 30 minutes to develop. Do we hold students until the result, or can they go back to class?

When a student has taken their test, they can return to their timetabled lesson as they will be in their consistent class bubble to help reduce the spread of the virus should a student test positive.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents or legal guardians will be notified as soon as possible within approximately 60 minutes of the test result. The student will be requested to isolate whilst we contact a parent/carer to arrange collection. Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home, or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time, while students wait for the PCR result via email they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. We ask that parents/carers inform us of the positive result as soon as possible. A confirmatory PCR test is crucial as it activates contact tracing, which reduces the spread of the disease. If an individual does not take a PCR confirmatory test, they must self-isolate for ten days and inform their contacts to self-isolate in line with public health advice.

Are secondary schools to receive supplies of PCR test kits for those who return a positive LFD test?

PCR test kits will be supplied to secondary schools and colleges. Any individual who receives a positive LFT will be provided with a confirmatory PCR test kit to take at home. They will not be expected to take the PCR test in school and will be asked to return home to self-isolate immediately. A PCR test can also be taken at one of the local walk-in test centres.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19, they will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days as per the government guidance. The parent/carer will be contacted to come and collect the student from school. The student will be expected to engage in the Remote Learning programme from home until able to return to school.

What happens if the test is negative?

We will not discuss or identify to students that their results have come back as 'negative'. If they do not receive any further contact from staff within 1 hour following their test, they should assume the test result is negative and continue taking safe measures and following all government guidance (Hands, Face, Space). Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear anything you can assume the test was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if any of the three tests are invalid or void for some reason.

Do you need consent to process the personal data required for testing?

Secondary schools and colleges will need to satisfy themselves that they have a lawful basis for processing personal data. The duties prescribed in education legislation for secondary schools and FE institutions require them to plan for safeguarding needs and promote pupils, and students' welfare may provide sufficient legal basis without having to rely on consent. Schools and colleges will provide staff, pupils and parents with a privacy notice explaining what personal data is required to participate in the programme. Our privacy notice is on the school website.

What if my child develops symptoms?

If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

What should I do if I have further questions or concerns?

Please contact your child's Head of Year of Form Tutor in the first instance.