

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about asymptomatic testing in schools

The following is a list of FAQ's related to the asymptomatic (symptomless) testing of pupils in schools - please note that the answers to these questions are based on the Government and NHS guidance documents.

	Question	Answer
1	Why is the government expecting schools to coordinate asymptomatic LFD tests on pupils?	Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s will support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.
2	When will my child get tested?	Secondary schools have been directed by the Government to offer pupils testing at an on-site testing centre from 8 th March prior to them returning to face-to-face teaching. We have set up our testing centre in the Bay Arena in line with the strict Government guidance.
3	How many times will my child get tested in school?	All pupils will be offered the opportunity to be tested 3 times, 3 to 5 days apart, over the wb. 8 th March and wb. 15 th March. Please see below for the school's proposed testing schedule ~ <i>please note that students will be given designated time slots to arrive at school. Test 1 will be prior to return, tests 2 and 3 after students have returned.</i>
	LFD Testing Schedule – March 2021	
	Monday 8th March – Year 11 & 13 (Test 1)	Monday 15th March – Year 7 & 8 (Test 2)
	Tuesday 9th March – Year 9 & 10 (Test 1)	Tuesday 16th March - Year 11, 13 (Test 3) & Year 12 (Test 2)
	Wednesday 10th March – Year 7 & 8 (Test 1)	Wednesday 17th March - Year 9 & 10 (Test 3)
	Thursday 11th March – Year 11 & 13 (Test 2) & Year 12 (Test 1)	Thursday 18th March – Year 7 & 8 (Test 3)
	Friday 12th March – Year 9, 10 (Test 2)	Friday 19th March - Year 12 (Test 3)
4	When can my child return to school for face-to-face teaching?	Pupils will return to face-to-face education the day after they have had their first test, for which they must have had a negative result.
5	Will my child have the opportunity to undertake LFD tests after they have had their third test in school?	For secondary school staff and pupils the Government are moving to a home testing mode. Once pupils have been tested 3 times at school, the Government have stated that the pupils will be provided with home test kits for regular testing at home (probably twice per week).
6	Is it compulsory for pupils to be tested?	The Government has stated that 'testing remains voluntary but strongly encouraged' and, 'pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with (the school's) phased return arrangements' – see Question 4.
7	Do parents/carers have to give consent for their child to be tested?	Yes – please refer to the text that the school has sent to you which gives the link to the consent form.
8	What happens if my child tests positive when tested using the LFD test?	Individuals with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - click here for the guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-

		19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection
9	What happens if my child tests negative, but has coronavirus symptoms?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LFD test should not be used if someone has developed Covid-19 suspected symptoms, since the LFD may give a false-negative result and hence provide a false re-assurance. The test is intended for asymptomatic staff and students only. • Anyone with coronavirus symptoms should follow the NHS guidance regarding isolation and booking a PCR test – see the following links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus (COVID-19) - NHS (www.nhs.uk) ○ Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
10	How will home testing work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both pupils and staff in secondary schools will be supplied with LFD test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. • Staff and pupils must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. • Staff and pupils should also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with their school to help with contact tracing – we will be in contact as to the mechanism to do this in due course. • Pupils aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed. • Adolescents aged 12 to 17 should self-test and report with adult
11	What happens if my child tests positive for COVID19 when we test him/her at home?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. • They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result if the test was done at home. • Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school and use protective measures.
12	Does this asymptomatic testing approach replace the symptomatic testing approach?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. • Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines. • Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It remains imperative that the system of controls continues to be rigorously applied to enable the safest possible environment. • The testing programme is an important addition to supporting schools to maintain the continuity of education through the pandemic.
13	Does the Government allow me to keep my child at home when schools restart for face-to-face teaching?	The Government has stated that, 'school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March'.
14	What happens if someone tests positive for COVID19 in school?	The Government guidance states: '(schools) must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them all to self-isolate immediately and for the next 10 full days counting from the day after contact with the individual who tested positive.
15	What is meant by the term close contact when talking about COVID19?	<p>Close contact means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anyone who lives in the same household as someone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) • anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) with a PCR or LFD test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre • been within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact • sexual contacts • been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day) • travelled in the same vehicle or a plane
16	My child has previously tested positive for COVID19 using the PCR test, when should they start to use the LFD tests?	A pupil who tested positive would recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken.