

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Rapid testing for Coronavirus for students without symptoms (asymptomatic lateral flow testing)

At least 1 in 3 people infected with Coronavirus may not have any symptoms. We can now offer rapid testing for Coronavirus in school, with results within 30 minutes. This will help find infections early, even if the individual does not have symptoms, and reduce the risk of spread.

We would like to offer testing to your child. We are sharing the information with you so that you can decide if you would like your child to have the test, this is your choice.

Anyone taking the test needs to use a swab to wipe the back of their throat and rub inside their nose. This is not painful but may make some people feel sick or sneeze and feel a little uncomfortable. The swab will be tested at the school to give a positive or negative result.

A positive rapid test will mean that your child will need to go home straight away and take a PCR test which school will provide. These tests are more accurate and are sent away to a laboratory. This test will check if your child is truly infected. The result will take a day or so to come back, during this time your child and everyone who lives in the house will need to stay at home.

If the PCR test is positive then your child, and all others who live with you, will need to stay at home for 10 days from the day the test was taken. If it is negative, you can carry on as usual and do not need to isolate any longer.

A negative rapid test does not guarantee that your child is not infected, as there may unfortunately be small numbers of children who have the virus that will be given a false negative result. This means it is important that anyone being tested still follows the national advice about keeping distance, washing hands and wearing a face covering when required.

Rapid testing is only for people without symptoms. Anyone who has one of the three main symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) should stay at home with those they live with and request a PCR (lab test) through the national [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk), or by calling 119.

If any of the following applies, children should not come to school and should follow national guidance and self-isolate at home:

- If a child has symptoms and are waiting to take a test or receive a result
- Someone in their household is waiting to take a test or receive a result
- Has a positive test result or lives with someone who has a positive test result