



Who is being tested and why?

Testing is important because staff and students without symptoms could be carrying the virus and may spread it to others. Testing staff and students without symptoms will support schools and colleges to operate as safely as possible.

Simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests, enable us to rapidly test pupils, students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. Secondary schools and colleges will be provided with sufficient test kits, before the end of the summer term, to prepare to undertake testing of pupils on site via an Asymptomatic Test Site at the beginning of the Autumn term.

We will keep schools and communities safer by working together to:

- **Test as many secondary pupils and students on their return to secondary school and colleges.**

- 1 Helping to break chains of transmission by carrying out twice weekly testing (three to four days apart) of both secondary and college students and staff.**
- 2**

- ! This asymptomatic testing programme does not replace current guidance for those with symptoms or those identified as a close contact of a positive case. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book [a free NHS test](#) and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known. Testing also does not replace basic preventative measures such as regular handwashing, PPE and social distancing.

Lateral Flow Testing



Accessible and easy to use

No lab required, with fast results

Safe technology



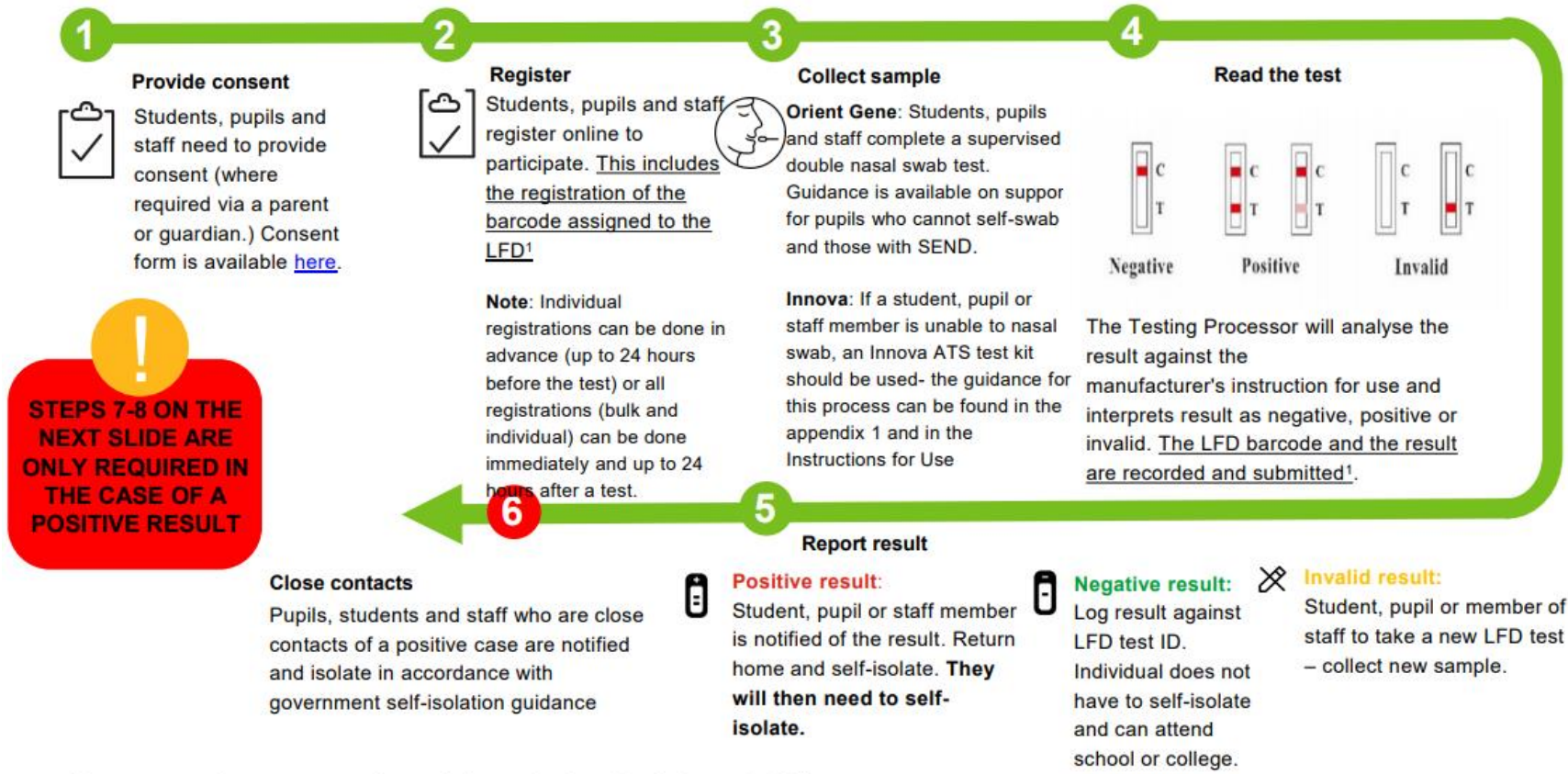


Schools Guide to testing 2021

Overview



The testing journey



STEPS 7-8 ON THE NEXT SLIDE ARE ONLY REQUIRED IN THE CASE OF A POSITIVE RESULT

! If you test negative, you must continue to follow national and local rules and guidelines including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing face coverings, where required.

1. See pages 28 to 33 for more detail



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Carrying out testing



Self-administering the test (1 of 2)



At the Registration Desk, the individual being tested (students/pupils/staff member) will be handed a barcode.

They will step up to the swabbing desk and hand the barcode to the Processor. They should **sanitize their hands** and remove their mask.

The person being tested will blow their nose into a tissue and throw the tissue into a bin. This gets rid of excess mucus.

They should then **sanitize their hands** once more.

The person should identify the soft, fabric tip of the swab, peel open the sealed packaging and gently remove the swab whilst taking care to not touch the soft, fabric tip of the swab

The person should then insert the swab into one nostril. The swab tip should be inserted until there is a slight resistance up to 2.5 cm (1 inch) from the edge of the nostril. Roll the swab firmly around the inside of the nostril slowly, making 5 complete circles.

Slowly remove the swab from the nostril

Repeat step 4 for the other nostril using the same swab



***If the student/pupil is unable to self administer the test, administered swabbing should be completed by a trained member of staff.**



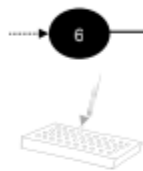
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Carrying out testing



Test and Trace

Self-administering the test (2 of 2)



They will place their swab directly into the pre-prepared vial in the tube rack or equivalent, with the cotton bud end facing down.

Make sure they don't grasp the cotton bud end, which has been in contact with the nostrils. That might contaminate the sample.



The Testing Processor will then pick up the extraction tube, hold and press the swab head against the wall of the tube with force while rotating the swab six times and then leave the swab in the extraction tube for 1 minute, then squeeze the swab head by squeezing the extraction tube several times

Although the Testing Processor can observe multiple tests, they should only process one at a time to avoid mixing up barcodes and samples.



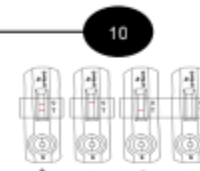
The lower end of the tube is squeezed whilst the swab is removed (to remove as much liquid from the swab head as possible). The swab is then thrown away into a bin, and the cap of the extraction tube is placed onto the tube.

The barcode that was handed over at the start of the test will be attached to the bottom of the LFD device *before* the sample is dropped onto the LFD.



Four drops of the solution is squeezed onto the sample well of the LFD cartridge and the time of the test is recorded on the LFD (for example HH:MM).

Movement of the LFD cartridge should be kept to a minimum and where it is required to be moved, the LFD cartridge must be kept horizontal using a tray.



Read the results at 15 minutes. Do not interpret the result after 20 minutes. Results look like this diagram. **Two coloured lines indicate a positive test.**

The Testing Processor will look at the coloured lines and mark the result on the LFD with a permanent marker. The Results Recorder will then upload results to the national Test and Trace database.

- '+' mark for positives
- 'V' mark for invalid and void tests
- '-' mark for negatives



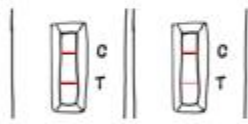
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Carrying out testing

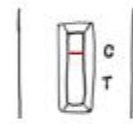


Interpreting the results

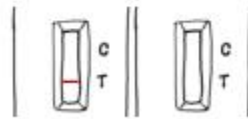
- Read the results at 15 minutes. Do not interpret the result after 20 minutes.
- Line C must be coloured to have a valid test result
- The LFD detects a COVID-19 antigen that is produced when a person is infected with COVID-19. If this antigen is present, then two coloured strips will appear on the LFD, indicating a positive result.



Positive result:
Any visible coloured line on "C" and "T", which may be faint

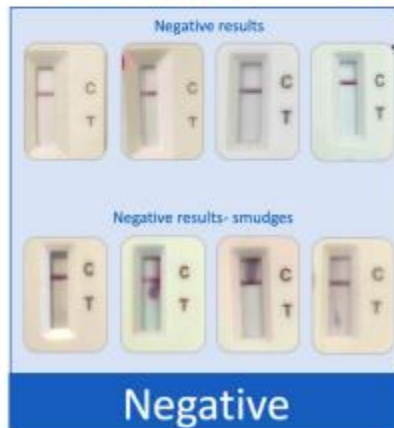


Negative result:
Coloured line on "C" only



Invalid or void result:
No coloured line on "C"

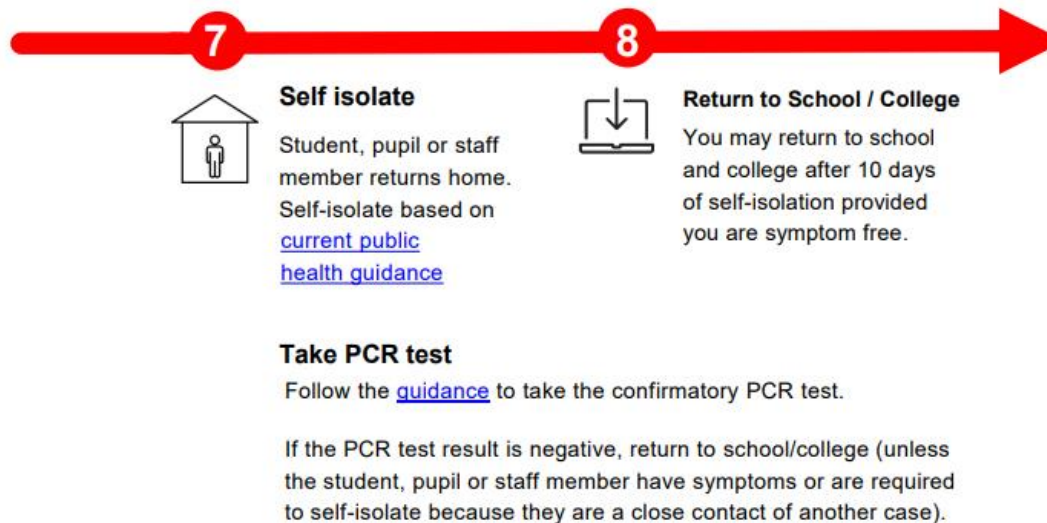
Results interpretation- real world examples





The testing journey: positive result

For individuals who have returned a positive LFD test, schools and colleges should follow the following steps:



! If, at any point, a student, pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must follow [government guidelines](#).



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[How to do a PCR test for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#)

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This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

Testing twice weekly is helping us stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and plan our response. The preparations that schools and colleges are advised to take are subject to further public health advice and the latest position on prevalence of the COVID-19 virus.