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16th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of the Government's efforts to manage the spread of Coronavirus, we have been asked to distribute home testing kits to students. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. Carrying out tests at home twice every week 3 - 4 days apart will help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Testing students at home

Students in Year 11 who have been involved in the in-school testing programme will be provided with a home testing kit today following their third in-school test. Their first home school test should be conducted before school on Friday and then again on Tuesday. Repeating this pattern each week.

Students in Year 10 who have been involved in the in-school testing programme will be provided with a home testing kit tomorrow (17th March) following their third in-school test. Their first home school test should be conducted before school on Monday and then again on Thursday. Repeating this pattern each week.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who have been involved in the in-school testing programme will be provided with a home testing kit next week Monday (22nd March) following their third in-school test. **For students in Years 8 and 9**, their first home school test should be conducted before school on Tuesday 23rd March and then again on Friday (26th March). Repeating this pattern each week. **Year 7 students** should conduct their first home test before school on Friday 26th March and then again on Tuesday 30th March. Repeating this pattern each week.

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive two packs, each containing 3 tests with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. Further tests kits will be issued to students upon their return from the Easter break.

Please make sure your child has enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed.

Students must not eat or drink 30 minutes prior to taking the test.

Please inform school of the result of each test by completing the online form on our school website <https://www.huntcliff.n-lincs.sch.uk/parents/covid-19-testing/>. The form is called "LFD Testing – Report Student Test Result to School"



Headteacher: Patrick Daley B.Ed (Hons), MBA
Registered in England No. 7897108 Registered Office as above

Any parent/carer who did not give consent initially for their child to be tested in school can still request a home test. If you would like to request a home test kit, please contact the school Reception on 01652 648 276 or e-mail reception@huntcliffschool.co.uk

Taking the test

To help students understand how to administer the tests at home there is a useful video [here](#).

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

Home test kits does not replace symptomatic testing. If your child or anyone in your family have symptoms, they should self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school.

You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at School/college).

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

Negative and void results should also be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

You need to report each test result

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

As mention above, you will also need to tell the school the result of each test.

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

Students are strongly encouraged to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Please contact the school, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Yours faithfully



Patrick Daley
Headteacher



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents/carers do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice enclosed.

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Huntcliff school, regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the student to take the test if they need support.

Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** and please also tell the school.

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus

LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both NHS Test & Trace and your child's school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands.

What if my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school

Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

How do you report the result?

You should report the result of each test (whether it is positive, negative or void) using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information
- attend a test site to get tested where you will be able to see how to take the test or pick up tests to do at home (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students](#).

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your child's name
- your child's test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

You will also need to tell your child's school or college their test result.

Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice attached.