

DHSC – Rapid Asymptomatic Testing for Households FAQs

<p>How Reliable/effective are LFD kits used at home without a trained professional?</p>	<p>Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. Crucially, when levels of virus are at their highest and people are most likely to pass on the disease, lateral flow tests can detect the vast majority of cases</p> <p>No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. Each positive case identified can help prevent many additional people becoming infected over time. LFD tests are crucial in the fight against the virus.</p> <p>Extensive clinical evaluation has been carried out on the lateral flow tests. Evaluations from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used by individuals in the community.</p> <p>LFD tests identify the most infectious individuals. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them remains important. We believe the ability to self-test at home makes rapid testing even more convenient, accessible and further increases the speed at which people can self-isolate.</p> <p>It is important to remember that these tests are an additional health protection measure in addition to face coverings, social distancing etc.</p>
<p>If these tests are so effective why do people need a confirmatory PCR test after doing the test at home?</p>	<p>In line with clinical advice, confirmatory PCR testing will remain in place for individuals that are testing at home, in order to minimise the risk that incorrectly reported positive results are registered.</p>
<p>Has the MHRA approved this? I thought it hadn't.</p>	<p>The MHRA have authorised the Lateral Flow Device self-test kits for use at home.</p>
<p>Will testing replace self-isolation (Daily contact testing)?</p>	<p>No. This testing does not replace isolation. Daily contact testing (where daily testing can replace isolation) is still under evaluation and does not form part of this testing.</p> <p>Accordingly, individuals with a positive LFD result along with close contacts will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the stay-at-home guidance. Individuals need to report all test results, positive, negative or voids to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is complete, as set out in the test kit instructions and self-report gov.uk page. This will enable NHS Test and Trace to monitor the spread of the virus. They should also inform their educational setting of their result so the setting can identify close contacts, who will also need to self-isolate. They must book a confirmatory PCR test online, then continue to isolate for 10 days if the PCR test result is positive. The individual should also inform their educational setting of a positive PCR result.</p>
<p>What if people don't have access to internet/digital –</p>	<p>People in England can report results via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.</p>

DHSC – Rapid Asymptomatic Testing for Households FAQs

<p>how will they report results?</p>	
<p>Will there be training to help individuals do the test properly?</p>	<p>All of the information needed to allow an individual to participate in testing will be included in the instructions. Detailed information on how to self-swab and use the at home LFD tests can be found in the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘instructions for use’ handbook (v 1.3.2) • ‘how to’ guide • YouTube video series covering a ‘step to step guide to covid-19 self-testing’
<p>How will households and childcare/support bubble members receive the home tests?</p>	<p>We are encouraging households and childcare/support bubble members to get asymptomatic tests twice a week, which can be done through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who are households/support bubbles of children and also cannot work from home, may have access to onsite workplace testing and should enquire with their employer. • Attend their local community testing site, which can be found via their council website or the gov.uk postcode checker: https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site • Rapid lateral flow self-test kits can be collected from more than 500 local and regional test sites. Find the nearest at www.find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk Test sites are open for the collection of tests from 13:30-19:00, seven days a week. • For those who cannot access these options a new online ordering service has a supply of test kits for home delivery. visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
<p>How will school staff and pupils get access to tests?</p>	<p>Primary staff are able to collect home tests from their schools to enable them to test twice weekly.</p> <p>Secondary staff are able to get twice-weekly testing in school at the moment, but will be able to collect test kits for home testing in the coming week</p> <p>Secondary pupils will have access to on site testing on their return to school. After 3 tests 3-5 days apart, they will be supplied with home test kits to continue twice weekly testing at home.</p>
<p>How can the tests be returned?</p>	<p>The vast majority of tests used are lateral flow devices which give a result in around 30 minutes. As such, there is no need to return these devices. Once a test is complete, the device can be disposed of as domestic waste.</p> <p>Where a confirmatory PCR test is delivered by post, you should ideally post the completed test kit through a priority post-box no later than 1 hour before last collection. Weekend collection times may differ from weekdays. Do not take your test on a bank holiday, take it on the following day instead, so it can be collected on time.</p> <p>To check collection times at your nearest Royal Mail priority postbox:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Royal Mail: services near you 2. Click the ‘Show my nearest priority postboxes’ tickbox

DHSC – Rapid Asymptomatic Testing for Households FAQs

	<p>3. Enter the postcode of where you're staying and select the address</p> <p>4. View priority postboxes near you and check the collection times</p> <p>If you're unable to get to a priority postbox without using public transport, or unable to follow the government's social distancing guidelines, are shielding, classed as vulnerable, or too unwell to leave your home, call us for guidance on when to take your test and how to book a courier collection: People in England can call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.</p>
<p>What if there are no local community testing sites? Isn't this a postcode lottery?</p>	<p>As of 26 February, 296 out of 314 Lower Tier Local Authorities (LTLAs) have started testing, with the remainder due to commence shortly. The programme has been expanded until at least the end of June. The current focus of community testing is on people who need to leave home for essential reasons, such as those who are unable to work from home, during the national restrictions so that we can protect their safety and wellbeing. This enables Local Authorities to focus on the right people in their areas and decide how the testing is best delivered.</p>
<p>What about false negatives/positives?</p>	<p>Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. Crucially, when levels of virus are at their highest and people are most likely to pass on the disease, lateral flow tests can detect the vast majority of cases.</p> <p>No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. LFD tests are either CE marked or approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and are crucial in the fight against the virus.</p> <p>Evaluations from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community.</p> <p>All tests have false negatives and false positives to some degree. If an individual with a negative result goes on to develop symptoms, they must self-isolate and book a test as per the government guidelines.</p>
<p>Will there be a helpline/support for households and childcare/support bubble members?</p>	<p>People in England can call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.</p>
<p>When can households and childcare/support bubble members start getting a test?</p>	<p>Asymptomatic testing for household and childcare/support bubble members will be made available to eligible individuals from 1st March.</p>

DHSC – Rapid Asymptomatic Testing for Households FAQs

<p>If someone else in my household/bubble tests positive but I test negative do I still need to isolate?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If I test positive does my primary school aged child need to have a test?</p>	<p>As a close contact of a positive case, they should self-isolate for 10 days</p>
<p>If the parent of a child in my class tests positive does the whole class have to isolate?</p>	<p>Only close contacts of the positive case need to self-isolate. This will be determined for those in school, by the school. It will be determined for those outside of school by NHS Test & Trace.</p>
<p>My child has been tested at school and is positive, should I have a test using one of these home kits or go to a PCR testing site?</p>	<p>If someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19. Stay at home and self-isolate. Do not go to work, school or public areas and do not use public transport. If you develop symptoms while you are isolating, arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test. If your result is positive, follow the advice for people with COVID-19 to stay at home and start a further full 10 day isolation period. You don't need to take a test if you don't have symptoms but you still need to self-isolate.</p>
<p>There are multiple adults living in my household, can I order home testing kits for all of them as one request or does this need to be done separately?</p>	<p>During the online ordering process, you will be guided through a series of questions to help you access the most appropriate testing channel based on your household situation. If you are directed to collect tests from a local test site you will be provided with 2 boxes that contain 7 tests each (14 tests) based on your household taking twice weekly tests. If you have a larger household, or are also collecting for your childcare bubble you may be eligible to collect up to 4 boxes (28 tests).</p>
<p>My child has a cough/fever/loss of smell or taste – should I use one of these tests to check if I have coronavirus?</p>	<p>Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a PCR test. You can find your nearest test centre through the online booking portal: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. Tests can also be booked online through the NHS website or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.</p>
<p>Can you please supply a list of the occupations associated with schools that will also have access to testing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid LFD testing is available for staff at state-maintained, private, voluntary and independent nurseries, primary and secondary schools and colleges • All primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools are receiving supplies of home testing kits to offer to all their staff – staff are will be asked to take their kits home and self-swab twice a week. • All school staff will be eligible for testing.

DHSC – Rapid Asymptomatic Testing for Households FAQs

<p>How does this testing programme fit with the vaccine programme?</p>	<p>This testing forms part of our roadmap out of lockdown, with primary and secondary schools returning to classrooms from 8 March. It is imperative we continue to test to help identify people with COVID-19, including up to one in three people who have no symptoms, while the vaccine rollout progresses. Thus far we have vaccinated over 17million people from the most at risk groups in the UK.</p> <p>Testing should continue even for those who have been vaccinated. Clinical trial evidence demonstrates that the vaccine reduces clinically severe infection and severe disease. The impact of the vaccine on preventing transmission remains unknown and individuals who have been vaccinated may still carry and be able to transmit the virus. We advise anyone who has been vaccinated to continue to observe national restrictions and engage with the asymptomatic LFD testing.</p>
<p>Why is it needed?</p>	<p>Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 do not have symptoms and could pass on the virus without knowing. As we begin on our roadmap out of lockdown it is important we provide testing to identify potential outbreaks and help break the chains of transmission.</p> <p>The asymptomatic testing expansion will help to break the chains of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in education settings by identifying asymptomatic positive cases. Those who test positive will then self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus. The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the Government's current testing policy for those with symptoms. Staff and pupils across FE Colleges, Secondary Schools, Primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nurseries who experience symptoms of Covid-19 should self-isolate immediately and arrange a test.</p>
<p>Why are we not testing primary school children?</p>	<p>Public Health England have advised that as the rates of COVID amongst primary school pupils broadly reflect the wider community prevalence, and serious COVID related illness is rare in children, regular testing would be very unlikely to keep schools open. In addition, there is no clear indication that any benefit gained by testing this group would outweigh the negative impact on a child's wellbeing with regular swabbing.</p>
<p>Who is eligible?</p>	<p>This testing is available for households and childcare or support bubbles of primary and secondary school age children, as part of plans for schools reopening.</p>
<p>What counts as a bubble?</p>	<p>A support bubble is a support network which links 2 households. Once you're in a support bubble, you can think of yourself as being in one 'household'. It means you can have close contact with the other household in your bubble as if they were members of your own household. To check if you meet certain eligibility rules, follow the guidance on Making a support bubble with another household.</p> <p>A childcare bubble is where one household links with one other household to provide informal childcare to anyone under 14. All adults in both households must agree to this arrangement. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered. Members of either household can</p>

DHSC – Rapid Asymptomatic Testing for Households FAQs

	<p>provide childcare in a home or public place. This includes overnight care. You can only have one childcare bubble with one other household. This means no household should be part of more than one childcare bubble. You can only use a childcare bubble for childcare. You cannot use a childcare bubble to mix with another household for other reasons.</p>
<p>How many tests am I allowed to pick up from a test site?</p>	<p>During the online ordering process, you will be guided through a series of questions to help you access the most appropriate testing channel based on your household situation. If you are directed to collect tests from a local test site you will be provided with 2 boxes that contain 7 tests each (14 tests) based on your household taking twice weekly tests. If you have a larger household, or are also collecting for your childcare bubble you may be eligible to collect up to 4 boxes (28 tests).</p>
<p>How can I find a collection site?</p>	<p>There are over 500 local and regional test sites offering a collection service. Find your nearest at https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/</p>
<p>How do I report my results?</p>	<p>Individuals with a positive LFD result will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They should report their results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is complete, as set out in the test kit instructions and self-report gov.uk page. This will enable NHS Test and Trace to monitor the spread of the virus. They should also inform their educational setting of their result so the setting can identify close contacts. They must book a confirmatory PCR test online, then continue to isolate for 10 days if the PCR test result is positive. The individual should also inform their school, college or nursery of a positive PCR result. If you have a negative PCR test following a positive LFD test, you and your household can stop isolating as per the NHS stay at home guidance.</p>
<p>How long will we need to do this testing for?</p>	<p>Rapid and regular testing will be available throughout the term time and the two-week Easter holiday.</p>
<p>Where do multigenerational families access asymptomatic testing?</p>	<p>We encourage multigenerational families to get asymptomatic tests through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a Community Testing site available in their area; • Collect a home test kit from a Collection Point (RTS / LTS / MTU); • Order a home test kit online.
<p>Where do families with one partner childminding and another unable to work from home access asymptomatic testing?</p>	<p>We encourage families with one partner childminding and another unable to work from home to get their asymptomatic tests through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a Community Testing site available in their area; • Collect a home test kit from a Collection Point (RTS / LTS / MTU); • Order a home test kit online.

DHSC – Rapid Asymptomatic Testing for Households FAQs

<p>Should children of primary school age get tested twice a week?</p>	<p>Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.</p>
<p>What is the main booking website for parents and support bubbles to order test kits?</p>	<p>For those who cannot access test through any other route a new online ordering service has a supply of test kits for home delivery. Visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests</p>
<p>When people are collecting kits from a local or regional test site to they need to book?</p>	<p>There is no need to book. The sites are open for the collection of test kits from 13:30-19:00, seven days a week.</p>
<p>Is it going to be possible in some instances to switch off the collections if more time is needed for the PCR sites to have people with symptoms booking?</p>	<p>Yes. The priority for the sites is for provision of PCR testing. Whilst demand for PCR testing is low, there is a clear underutilised capability to provide additional services. However, if demand for PCR testing increases markedly, time will be reallocated to testing operations.</p>
<p>Will there be monitoring in place to ensure that symptomatic cases do not rise with a restriction in available hours for PCR testing?</p>	<p>Yes. Our priority remains PCR testing, and should there be a rise in case rates in any geography, we would revert to provision of testing. PCR sites (RTS / LTS / MTU) will continue to accept customers for symptomatic PCR tests between 0800 – 1200 and will be closed for deep cleaning between 1200 – 1330. The Lateral Flow Devices collection windows will be between 1330 – 1900. Note: There is a strict cleaning regime for all test sites which means that facilities are cleaned multiple times a day to ensure very high standards of hygiene. Waste is removed on a regular basis.</p>
<p>Will there be a ramp up in PCR testing to support the need to support confirmatory tests in schools?</p>	<p>There is adequate capacity at the moment to cover any requirement for confirmatory PCR testing.</p>