

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Dear Colleague/Student/Parent or Guardian,

On 22nd February the Prime Minister announced that the Government has set out its plan for the return of all pupils to schools and colleges, as part of the [roadmap for leaving lockdown](#). We continue to keep you and our College as safe as possible, as outlined in the system of control (Appendix A) and have updated the following guidance to reflect the changes announced by the Prime Minister on the wider reopening of schools and colleges from Monday 8th March.

To safeguard the health of our staff and students, and keep as many staff and students in College as possible, we have set up Asymptomatic Testing Sites (ATS) across each of our campuses. Rapid testing using antigen Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) will support the return to education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. The test is voluntary, but strongly encourage, for everyone to take part in it with all testing being free of charge.

Student Testing

All college students will be invited to take LFD tests as they return to the classroom from Monday 8th March. This will be a phased approach in order to manage the numbers passing through the test site at any one time. There will be an initial programme of 3 tests in College (weekly) after completion of this on site testing students will be provided with rapid test kits to use twice a week at home. These kits will contain full instructions on how to carry out the tests, dispose of the equipment and record the results.

Staff Testing

College staff will be provided with rapid test kits to use twice a week at home from 8th March 2021. These will be issued upon receipt of the kits from the Department for Education. As with students these kits will contain full instructions on how to carry out the tests, dispose of the equipment and record the results.

Staff and students are also advised to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained as a temporary extra measure, except where exemptions apply. The requirement to wear face coverings in classrooms will be introduced for a limited time until Easter, and as with all measures, we will keep it under review and update guidance at that point.

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Below are details of the consent process, an overview of the test process, implications of positive and negative test results.

Gaining consent to test

The College will need to gain consent for anyone being tested at the test site. Participating in testing is voluntary, so you must consent to your test results being shared in accordance with the Privacy Notice (See appendix B).

To gain consent all students should complete the Consent Form which can be found [here](#). **Please use this link to complete the electronic form to enable the College to track the consent process.** The terms of consent for this process are included in Appendix C.

The email and mobile phone number provided on the Consent Form will be used in registration and this is where their test results will be sent so please ensure this is accurate.

When someone has provided consent, this will be recorded on the college's COVID-19 Test Register.

Who requires parental consent?

- Under 16 year olds require a parent/guardian to consent on their behalf, using the Consent Form. Those aged 16 and older may consent themselves using the Consent Form.
- 16 - 25 year olds with SEND may consent themselves using the Consent Form, providing they are Gillick Competent.
- Looked after children may already have consent arrangements in place, covered by their local authority. If not, the child's social worker may consent (or seek consent from those with parental responsibility) using the Consent Form.
- Staff may consent themselves using the Consent Form.

What is the process for testing?

A summary of the test process is included in the section 'Appendix D - The Testing Journey' and 'Appendix E - How to Do Your Test'

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results, which take around half an hour from testing, will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate (99.68% specificity) in identifying a case as the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests used at regional testing facilities across the country where results take over 24 hours to be processed. The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if I/someone student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Individuals who return a positive antigen LFD test result must self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance. Confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted on site.

What happens if the test is negative?

You will be able to stay in College and continue activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if I/my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at College is for people with no symptoms. If you/your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) you/they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions not covered in the attached 'Appendix F - Frequently Asked Questions'. You can call the office on 01756 791411 or email enquiries@craven-college.ac.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Lindsey Johnson

Appendix A – System of controls

Implementing the system of controls, creates a safer environment for students and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. By following these controls, you will effectively reduce risks in the College setting and create an inherently safer environment.

When an individual develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or has a positive test

Students, staff and other adults must not come into the setting if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to isolate having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 full days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they didn't have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

Anyone told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their public health protection team, has a legal obligation to self-isolate, but you may leave home to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm. More information can be found on NHS Test and Trace at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

If anyone in the College setting develops a new and continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you:

- must send them home to begin isolation. The isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days
- advise them to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection
- advise them to arrange to have a test as soon as possible to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19)

Other members of their household (including any siblings and members of their support or childcare bubble if they have one) should self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day symptoms started for the first person in their household, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test), and the next 10 full days. If a member of the household starts to display symptoms while self-isolating, they will need to restart the 10 day isolation period and book a test.

If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.

Ensure face coverings are used

Safe wearing of face coverings requires the:

- Cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on
- Safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use
- Dispose of temporary face coverings in “black bag” waste bins and not recycling bins

Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn, and the face covering should be replaced carefully. Staff and students may consider bringing a spare face covering to wear if their face covering becomes damp during the day.

Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Staff and students must clean their hands regularly, including:

- when they arrive at the setting
- when they return from breaks
- when they change rooms
- before and after eating

Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach

The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important. The College will make sure enough tissues and bins are available to support students and staff to follow this routine.

Maintain enhanced cleaning

In line with the risk assessment and timetabling of the day, the College will put in place and maintain an enhanced cleaning schedule.

Minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible

The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between students and staff. This will be achieved through keeping groups separate (in ‘bubbles’) and through maintaining distance between individuals.

Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Good ventilation reduces the concentration of the virus in the air, which reduces the risks from airborne transmission. This may include opening windows and opening internal doors to assist with creating a throughput of air.

Appendix B - Craven College – COVID-19 Testing Privacy Statement

Ownership of the Personal Data

To enable the Covid-19 testing to be completed at Craven College, we need to process personal data for staff and pupils taking part, including sharing of personal data where we have a legal obligation. Craven College is the Data Controller for the data required for processing the tests and undertaking any actions which are needed by the school / college to ensure we meet our public health and safeguarding legal obligations.

[Personal data relating to tests for pupils [Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 for maintained schools **OR** paragraph 7 of the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 applicable to academies **OR** paragraphs 3 and 14 of the Schedule to the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015 applicable to Non-Maintained Special Schools.]

[Personal Data relating to staff is processed under the legitimate interest of data controller to ensure we can minimise the spread of COVID in a timely manner and enable us to continue to deliver education services safely and securely].

If you decline a test, we record your decision under the legitimate interest of college in order to have a record of your decisions and to reduce unnecessary contact with you regarding testing.

The processing of special category personal data is processed under the provisions Section 9.2(i) of GDPR, where it is in the public interest on Public Health Grounds. This data is processed under the obligations set out in Public Health legislation (Regulations 3(1) and (4) of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI)) which allows the sharing of data for COVID related purposes and where it is carried out by [a health care professional **OR** someone who owes an equivalent duty of confidentiality to that data]

Data Controllorship is then passed to the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) for all data that we transfer about you and your test results to them. For more information about what they do with your data please see the Test and Trace [Privacy Notice](#). The establishment remains the Data Controller for the data we retain about you.

Personal Data involved in the process

We use the following information to help us manage and process the tests:

- Name
- Date of birth (and year group)
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Home postcode
- Email address
- Mobile number
- Unique barcode assigned to each individual test and which will become the primary reference number for the tests
- Test result
- Parent/guardians contact details (if required)

We will only use information that is collected directly from you specifically for the purpose of the tests, even if you have previously provided us with this information.

How we store your personal information

The information will only be stored securely on local spreadsheets in school/college whilst it is needed. It will also be entered directly onto DHSC digital services for the NHS Test and Trace purposes. Schools/colleges will not have access to the information on the digital service once it has been entered.

Processing of Personal Data Relating to Positive test results

The member of staff, pupil, student or parent (depending on contact details provided) will be informed of the result by the school/college and advised how to book a confirmatory test.

We will use this information to enact their own COVID isolation processes without telling anyone who it is that has received the positive test.

The information will be transferred to DHSC, who will share this with the NHS, GPs, PHE and the Local Government will use this information for wider test and trace activities as well as statistical and research purposes.

This information is processed and shared under obligations set out in Public Health legislation under Regulations 3(1) and (4) of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI) which allows the sharing of data for COVID related purposes.

This information will be kept by the school/college for up to 14 days and by the NHS for 8 years.

Processing of Personal Data Relating to Negative test results

We will record a negative result and the information transferred to DHSC, NHS, PHE and the Local Government who will use the information for statistical and research purposes.

This information is processed and shared under obligations set out in Public Health legislation under Regulations 3(1) and (4) of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI) which allows the sharing of data for COVID related purposes.

This information will be kept by the school/college for up to 14 days and by the NHS for 8 years.

Processing of Personal Data relating to declining a test

We will record that you have declined to participate in a test and this information will not be shared with anyone.

Data Sharing Partners

The personal data associated with test results will be shared with

- DHSC, NHS, PHE – to ensure that they can undertake the necessary Test and Trace activities and to conduct research and compile statistic about Coronavirus.
- Your GP – to maintain your medical records and to offer support and guidance as necessary

- Local Government to undertake local public health duties and to record and analyse local spreads.

Your Rights

Under data protection law, you have rights including:

Your right of access - You have the right to ask us for copies of your personal information.

Your right to rectification - You have the right to ask us to rectify personal information you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask us to complete information you think is incomplete.

Your right to erasure - You have the right to ask us to erase your personal information in certain circumstances.

Your right to restriction of processing - You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.

Your right to object to processing - You have the the right to object to the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.

Your right to data portability - You have the right to ask that we transfer the personal information you gave us to another organisation, or to you, in certain circumstances.

You are not required to pay any charge for exercising your rights. If you make a request, we have one month to respond to you.

Please contact us at [insert email address, phone number and or postal address of school / college's DPO] if you wish to make a request.

How to complain

If you have any concerns about our use of your personal information, you can make a complaint to us at [Insert your organisation's contact details for data protection queries].

You can also complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how we have used your data.

The ICO's address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

Appendix C - Consent form for COVID-19 testing in secondary schools and colleges

Introduction

This consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Pupils and students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

Terms of consent

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated 26/02/2021 and the attached Privacy Notice.
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for lateral flow tests. I / my child will self-swab if I / my child is able to otherwise I understand that assistance is available. In the case of under 16s or pupils who are not able to provide informed consent, I have discussed the testing with my child and they are happy to participate and self-swab (with assistance if required).
4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for the below named person. If, on the day of testing I / they do not wish to take part, then I understand I / they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
5. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
6. I understand that if my /my child's result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where I am / they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
7. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing. I/they will follow the instructions on the PCR Kit to return the test the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.

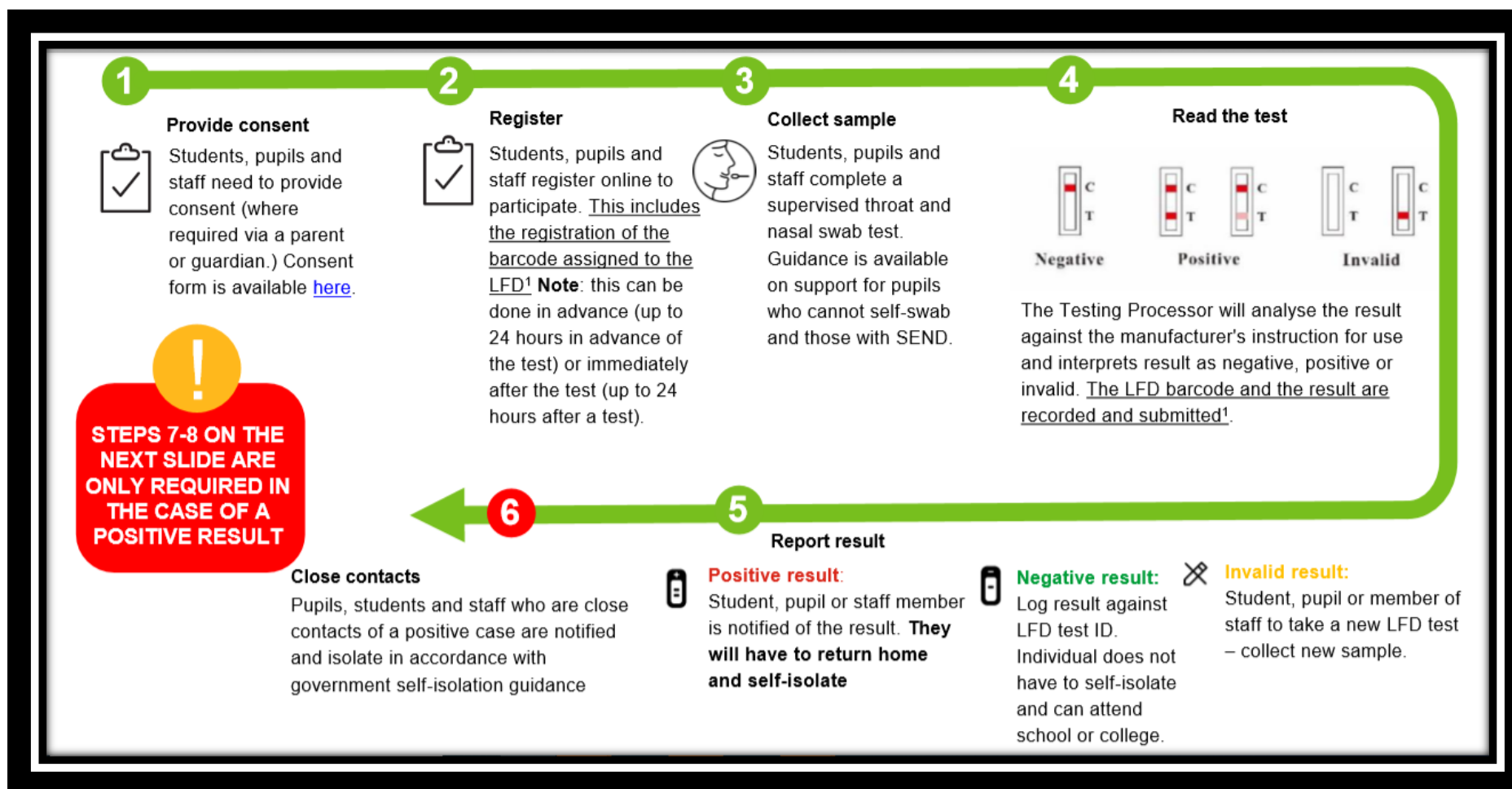
8. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that I / my child is removed from school premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind I / they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.

9. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.

10. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I / my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

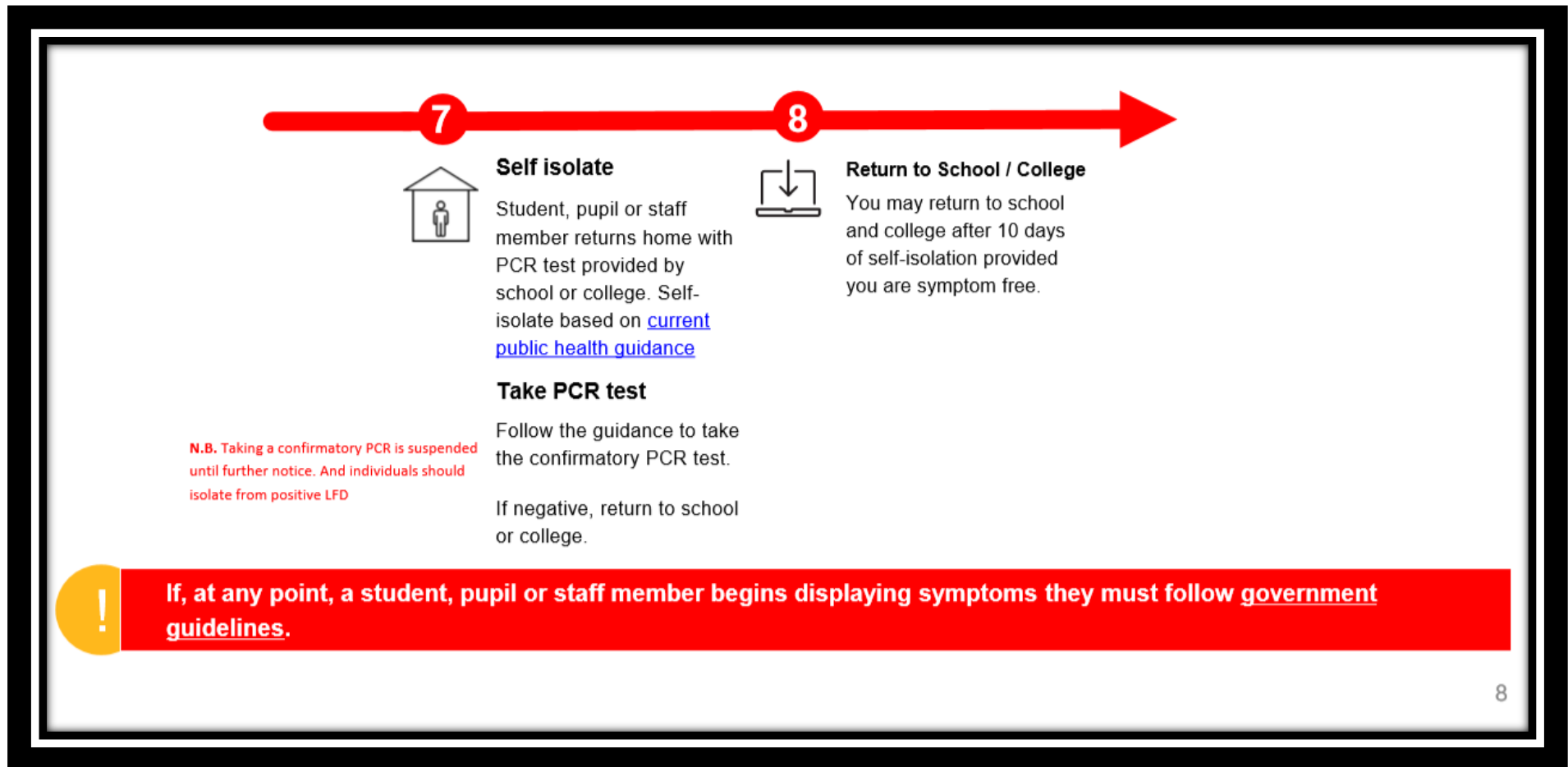
11. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school / college but will be tested every day at school / college for 7 days.

Appendix D – The Testing Journey



Appendix D – The Testing Journey – Positive Result

For individuals who have returned a positive LFD test, schools and colleges should follow the following steps: **NOTE CONFIRMATORY PCR is suspended until further notice.**



Appendix E – How to do your Test



HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1 YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

3 BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED, WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4 OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS

5 REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6 GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8 YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9 YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Appendix F – Frequently asked questions

Testing

What are the objectives of the Government’s asymptomatic testing strategy in education settings?

As many as one in three people who contract the virus show no symptoms (they are asymptomatic), so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. Asymptomatic testing will help to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission. Those who test positive will self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus.

Alongside asymptomatic testing, secondary schools and colleges should also continue to put in place a range of protective measures to minimise the risk of infection spread, and twice weekly testing for staff and pupils will also increase their confidence in the workplace. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of antigen LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested.

All existing protective measures set out in Government guidance (e.g. social distancing, handwashing, face coverings where needed, bubbles) remain important and the need for these is not lessened. A negative antigen LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – antigen LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the Government’s current testing policy for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms, you should continue to book a test via <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19> or by calling 119 in England

Why is the government implementing this programme of testing?

By testing we will help to break the chains of transmission of coronavirus. The rapid testing programme in secondary schools and colleges will help to identify asymptomatic positive cases. Those who test positive will then self-isolate, helping to keep other pupils and students in face-to-face education.

Is participation in testing compulsory?

Testing is voluntary but staff, pupils and students are strongly encouraged to participate as testing regularly helps to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission.

Why are you using antigen lateral flow tests instead of PCR tests?

Antigen LFD tests produce results much quicker than PCR tests. With antigen lateral flow tests, a result is available after 30 minutes rather than 1-2 days as is the case with PCR tests. The rapid turnaround has a significant impact on transmission reduction that might occur in the time gap.

How accurate is a lateral flow device test?

LFD tests are very accurate, which means that only a very small proportion of people who do not have coronavirus will receive a positive result (false positive).

If you test positive on an LFD test, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment. By using the LFD test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further.

Those who receive a negative test result from an LFD test must still follow social distancing guidance, wear face coverings when appropriate and wash their hands regularly.

Who will be doing the testing in schools and colleges?

In most cases, pupils will self-swab in order to provide a test sample. There are a number of related roles in the testing process which will be carried out by a combination of College staff and other agency staff/volunteers.

Will the existing testing service remain open?

The Government's normal testing service for symptomatic individuals will continue. This is the foundation of the government's testing strategy. It is the most effective way to know if you are positive and need to self-isolate. If you have symptoms, you should continue to book a test via the NHS Coronavirus (COVID-19) service or by calling 119 in England and Wales.

How will you avoid a stigma on those who choose not to take part or who test positive in school/college in front of their peers?

Test results will be communicated to students/pupils and staff in private wherever possible.

Why should I (the pupil/student/staff member) get tested if I (the pupil/student/staff member) have (has) no symptoms?

Lateral flow tests are designed to detect the level of virus in individuals who do not experience and show any symptoms, but who could still be infectious and pass the virus to others. By taking a test, you will help to stop the spread of the virus, protect other people, and save lives.

Why would I (the pupil/student/staff member) take the test? If positive, I will have to self-isolate. Why would I take the risk?

Lateral flow tests are designed to detect the level of virus in individuals who do not experience and show any symptoms, but who could still be infectious and pass the virus to others. By taking a test, you will help to stop the spread of the virus, protect other people, and save lives. This will also mean that staff can continue going to work, schools and colleges can avoid unnecessary staff shortages, and pupils and students can continue in face-to-face education with their peers.

What happens if College cannot get the consent and the student turns up to College?

Participation in the programme requires active consent from the person being tested, or, if they are under 16, their parent or legal guardian. Any staff member or student who does not take part in testing will still be able to attend college unless they develop symptoms or have been in close contact with a positive result.

What happens if a student, or staff member's antigen lateral flow test result is positive?

Individuals who return a positive antigen LFD test result must self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance. They should also inform the college of the positive result and must order a confirmatory PCR test if they are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted through an on-site ATS).

Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

If, however, you do have an antigen LFD test within 90 days of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, for example as part of a workplace or community testing programme, and the result of this test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.

If it is more than 90 days since you tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, and you have new symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive antigen LFD or PCR test, follow the steps in this guidance again.

What about student with SEND who will not be able to manage a self-swab?

In some cases, the individual may wish to have a trusted adult from the setting to supervise the self-swab of the test.

What happens if, in exceptional circumstances, the parent is unable to collect a child who has tested positive?

Parents or carers should arrange for their child to be collected as quickly as possible following a positive test. The student should wear a face covering and keep a safe distance from others in a designated waiting area within the education setting. Students who have tested positive must not travel home using public transport.

Home testing

When should staff, pupils and students do the testing? Mornings vs evening? Is weekend testing allowed?

Staff, and students should test twice weekly before coming into college, ideally in the morning. If they cannot take the test in the morning, they should take it as soon as possible before coming into college.

How will staff and students know what do to with the home test kits?

Detailed information how to self-swab and process the tests is in the Instructions for Use and there is an [NHS Video demonstrating how to carry out a test](#). In addition, a detailed How to Guide for home testing will be available from the College.

Can students do the test themselves?

When testing at home, students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed. Students aged 16-17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary.

How will test results get recorded when the college move to home testing?

When testing at home, the College will not automatically find out if staff or students have taken a test. Staff or students (or the parent) are required to report the test result via the NHS Online reporting system for both negative, void and positive test results. They should also report positive, negative and void results to the college. If the result is positive, the individual should isolate and the college will help with contact tracing. Staff or student (or parent) 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 antigen LFD test result can continue to attend college and use protective measures.

Why do I need to share information on antigen LFD test results both with NHS Test & Trace and my College?

It is a requirement to share results with NHS Test & Trace so that contact tracing (particularly outside the College environment can take place) and clinical evaluation of the testing programme can continue. Staff and students should share results with their College so that if positive, immediate contact tracing can take place in College. Void and negative results are useful information for the College both to monitor stocks of kits and to identify any issues that might need escalating to DfE or NHS Test & Trace.

Can my family get tested too?

No, this asymptomatic antigen LFD testing is for staff and students in college. The tests will be handed to staff and students for personal use and should not be used for anyone else. If family members experience COVID-19 symptoms, they must follow standard Government guidance, including self-isolating immediately and booking a test through the NHS Coronavirus (COVID-19) service or by calling 119 (England and Wales).

Should someone who has been vaccinated take an antigen LFD test?

Yes, we do not yet know whether vaccines prevent individuals transmitting the virus. If College staff have been vaccinated, they should continue to follow this guidance. The vaccine does not interfere with the antigen LFD or PCR tests.

Miscellaneous Questions

Do test results get affected by brushing teeth, drinking water?

Avoid eating or drinking half an hour before the test. A small amount of water is acceptable. There is unlikely to be an adverse impact of brushing teeth prior to testing but it might be prudent to wait a while before testing.

Are the swabs latex free?

The manufacturer has confirmed that Innova swabs are latex free.

Does the LFD test contain any harmful substances and are there any precautions for dealing with spillages?

Extraction solution which comes with the LFD test kit contains the following components: Na_2HPO_4 (disodium hydrogen phosphate), NaH_2PO_4 (sodium phosphate monobasic), NaCl (Sodium Chloride). These components do not have any hazard labels associated with them, and the manufacturer states that there are no hazards anticipated if individuals follow the instructions for use. Any spillages should be wiped with paper towel and if the solution included the throat and nose sample, the area should be appropriately disinfected using household disinfectant.

Do the LFD tests contain animal products or have they been tested on animals?

All of the antibodies are necessarily generated from animal cells. While we do not test any of these products on animals, nor are animals harmed in the development process, the antibodies used for the test reaction are derived using an animal cell in the laboratory. The T line for a positive test is derived by reaction between the sample as it flows to the membrane (thin paper like material inside the device) which is coated with these antibodies. It is therefore highly unlikely for there to be any direct contact between the person being tested and the animal material itself. However, we want to make sure that the people undertaking the test make an informed choice about this.

Are the LFD tests vegan?

The monoclonal antibody technology present in our lateral flow devices are generated from animal cells. During development, at no time have any component parts been tested on animals.

Are the LFD tests halal?

No animal products have been used in the production of the swabs. The swab is the only material with which the individual will come into direct contact. The individual using the test will not come into direct contact with any materials made from animal products. The thin paper like material inside the LFD is coated with antibodies from animal cells. No direct contact will be made between the person and this material. The monoclonal antibody technology present in our lateral flow devices are generated from animal cells. This is in common with other tests of this kind, including commercially available pregnancy tests.

Is the LFD test safe for those that are pregnant?

Yes, the tests are safe to use by those who are pregnant.