

16th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Home testing Update - 16th March 2021

Home test kits will be issued to children on the day of their last test this week. Home testing is voluntary but is part of the Government's wider plan to help reduce transmission in the community.

How effective are these tests?

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect asymptomatic COVID-19 cases. The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested. LFD tests are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The tests are highly specific, with low chances of false positives. They are also very sensitive and able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. It is important to remember that these tests are an additional layer of health protection measure in addition to hand washing, face covering and social distancing.

How do I conduct the test?

Please watch the NHS you tube video and read the provided instruction booklet and leaflet enclosed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=2>

How often should I test?

Staff and students will test at home on a regular basis (twice per week, 3 to 4 days apart) usually before they come into the education setting

When should I test?

It is recommended that your child **tests in the morning** before attending school (so there is less chance they get infected between taking the test and attending the setting). However, they may choose to do the testing the evening before, especially the first time, to give more time to get accustomed to the test.

We have suggested the below guide based on the last test conducted in school. If your child would prefer to test in the evening, please test the evening before the assigned day.

	Monday 15th March	Tuesday 16 March	Wednesday 17th March	Thursday 18th March	Friday 19th March	Saturday 20th March	Sunday 21st March
In school testing	7&8	9&11	10	7&8	9		
Home testing					11		

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	Monday 22 nd March	Tuesday 23 rd March	Wednesday 24 th March	Thursday 25 th March	Friday 26 th March	Saturday 27 th March	Sunday 28 th March
Home test	10, 7 & 8	11 & 9		10, 7 & 8	11 & 9		
Easter holidays	Monday 29 th March	Tuesday 30 th March	Wednesday 31 st March	Thursday 1 st April	Friday 2 nd April	Saturday 3 rd April	Sunday 4 th April
	10, 7 & 8	11 & 9			10, 7 & 8	11&9	
Easter holidays	Monday 5 th April	Tuesday 6 th April	Wednesday 7 th April	Thursday 8 th April	Friday 9 th April	Saturday 10 th April	Sunday 11 th April
		10, 7 & 8	11 & 9			10, 7 & 8	11 & 9

If I receive a positive test result

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home **do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test**. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the student and their close contacts should self-isolate. **If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.**

Reporting your result to NHS Test and Trace

You are required to report the results of your tests online, or by phone, every time you take a test, even if the result was negative or void. Education settings are not able to view the results that their staff and students have uploaded to the online service. Please follow the instructions in the instruction booklet.

Reporting your test result to school

The school is required to keep a record of test results. Please use the attached google form link to record your test result in addition to the NHS Test and Trace. This will be for record purposes only. If you receive a positive test, please notify the school immediately.

<https://forms.gle/GiQwhwpoFaX141fz7>

Please ring the out of hours Covid number- [07721332592](tel:07721332592) or email me directly- hwatts@acle.norfolk.sch.uk.

In school testing

We will keep our testing centre open for any child that may struggle to complete the test at home and would like to be tested with supervision at school.

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Children under 12

No children below the age of 11 should be tested. Secondary pupils aged 11 should have the test administered by an adult, and pupils and students aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves.

Test kits for household and support bubbles

Households and support bubbles of school aged children are able to access test kits using the below link. Please do not use the test kits provided by the school for your child. Our test kits have a unique code which should only be used by the students of the school.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Privacy notice for test at home

Please read the attached privacy notice to understand how your data will be used.

Consent

Once you have understood the testing process and have read the privacy notice, if you choose to participate you are committing to self-administer the test and report your results via the NHS Test & Trace digital platform and to your education setting. By opening the pack, consent is assumed and not further consent is required to participate.

If you have not consented to in school testing but would like your child to take part in home testing, they can collect a test kit from the main school office.

Isolating students

Students who are currently isolating will need to have their home test kit before they can return to school. Wherever possible, we would like to ask parents to please pop into school this week to collect a home test kit for your child as we need to record a receipt of collection. If this presents any difficulties, please can you ring the school so we can make an alternative arrangement.

New instruction leaflet

Please discard the instruction leaflet that is in the box of the home test kit. This has been replaced with an updated version (V1.3.1 or v1.3.3 dated 15th January). The separate instruction booklet provided replaces the old version that is supplied in the box. The old version has an image on the front whereas the new version is plain.

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Old front cover

New front cover

If you have any questions or concerns regarding home testing, please do not hesitate to contact me. We anticipate another delivery of home test kits next week which will be needed for the week student's return to school after Easter.

With best wishes

Helen Watts
Principal

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