



Monday 1st March 2021

Dear parents,

I am writing to you today to give you information about lateral flow tests which can test for Covid within 30 minutes. As you will know from my previous letters all ASPIRE staff are completing these tests twice weekly on a Sunday evening and a Wednesday to ensure they are safe to attend school.

The government has now made these tests available to all households with school aged children. The testing is not mandatory, but is encouraged and should help to prevent bubble closures.

The government statement is as follows:

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 as schools return from 8 March.

This is the link to the article - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week?fbclid=IwAR2yRgmbqVoqasqiBKO8DMwFyU>

Following the links from the article you get the following information.

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Get a test through your employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

Here is the link to find the nearest rapid lateral flow test site

<https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Collect test kits

You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go. Here is the link to find the nearest collection point

<https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Order home test kits online

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

Here is the link to order home lateral flow tests.

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

What twice-weekly testing involves

You will be asked to:

take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)

report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test

Report your test online - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119.

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result (a standards test at a drive in test centre)
- follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all coronavirus advice including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommend

I hope you find this useful, as stated you do not have to test the household twice weekly, however, it is encouraged as it will go a long way in keeping our schools Covid-free, and hopefully, therefore, prevent any bubble/school closures.

If you have any questions please do contact me on exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
ASPIRE Federation