

**CAUTION: Please note the information below is correct at the time of its publication (10/02/2021). We understand that this is a rapidly changing area and we recommend you regularly visit the latest Government guidance for the most up to date information – links below.**

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Rapid asymptomatic testing in specialist settings- GOV.UK](#)
- [Asymptomatic testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries](#)
- [Position statement regarding daily contact testing in schools from PHE and NHS Test and Trace - GOV.UK](#)

**For any questions on testing email [RapidTesting.SCHOOLS@education.gov.uk](mailto:RapidTesting.SCHOOLS@education.gov.uk), or call the DfE coronavirus helpline on 0800 046 8687 and select option 7.**

***N.B:*** Lateral Flow Device Testing programme does not replace the current testing programme for **those with symptoms**. Anyone who is [showing symptoms](#) of coronavirus (COVID-19) should still self-isolate immediately according to the government guidelines. Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus. Table below applies to those who do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

**FAQs on the use and interpretation of Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD) – please follow the column that applies to you**

	Primary school, school-based nursery and maintained nursery		Secondary school and colleges	
	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil)	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil/student)
A- Am I offered an LFD test?	Yes	Not at present	Yes	Yes
B- Where do I perform this test?	At home	Not applicable	Onsite – at school	Onsite – at school
C- How often I need to perform this test?	<a href="#">Twice weekly</a> (3-4 days apart) and ongoing	Not applicable	<a href="#">Twice weekly</a> (3-4 days apart) and ongoing	<a href="#">One – off</a> testing on return to your setting (only for those who have yet to return to their institution)
D- What if my LFD test is negative?	No action and you can continue to attend school and use protective measures	Not applicable	No action and you can continue to attend school and use protective measures	No action and you can continue to attend school and use protective measures
E- What if my LFD test is positive?	You will need to inform school and self-isolate in line with the <a href="#">stay-at-home guidance</a> .  Your household members must isolate for 10 days as well	Not applicable	You will need to self-isolate in line with the <a href="#">stay-at-home guidance</a> .  Your household members must isolate for 10 days as well	You will need to self-isolate in line with the <a href="#">stay-at-home guidance</a> .  Your household members must isolate for 10 days as well

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	<p>You will need to report the outcome of positive test as per <a href="#">instructions</a> in home test kit.</p> <p>You will also need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result.</p>		At present, you <b>do not</b> need a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR).	At present, you <b>do not</b> need a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
F- What actions would be needed by school if my LFD test is positive?	<p>Your school would need to carry out contact tracing to identify your close contacts</p> <p>Any close contacts identified would also need to isolate for 10 days from the date of last exposure.</p> <p>N.B:– <a href="#">7 days</a> of <a href="#">daily contact testing</a> in close contacts has been paused and hence not needed, UNLESS your school is part of the DHSC supported pilot programme of daily contact testing.</p> <p>Your household members must isolate for 10 days as well</p>	<p>If you are identified, by your school, as a close contact of the staff who tested positive on LFD test, then you would need to follow advice on self-isolation.</p>	<p>Your school would advise/arrange for you to safely return home.</p> <p>Your school will carry out contact tracing to identify your close contacts</p> <p>Any close contacts identified would also need to isolate for 10 days from the date of last exposure.</p> <p>N.B:– <a href="#">7 days</a> of <a href="#">daily contact testing</a> in close contacts have been paused and hence not needed, UNLESS your school is part of the DHSC supported pilot programme of daily contact testing.</p>	<p>Your school would arrange your safe return to your home.</p> <p>Your school will carry out contact tracing to identify your close contacts</p> <p>Any close contacts identified would also need to isolate for 10 days from the date of last exposure.</p> <p>N.B:– <a href="#">7 days</a> of <a href="#">daily contact testing</a> in close contacts have been paused and hence not needed, UNLESS your school is part of the DHSC supported pilot programme of daily contact testing.</p>
G- What if my confirmatory PCR test comes back as negative and I do not have symptoms of COVID-19?	<p>If this PCR test result is negative, and you have no symptoms of COVID-19, you and your household can stop isolating.</p>	<p>You can also return to school if you were initially identified as a close contact of the staff who has now</p>	<p>Not applicable as you did not need to have a confirmatory PCR test after a positive LFD test.</p>	<p>Not applicable as you did not need to have a confirmatory PCR test after a positive LFD test.</p>

	Primary school, school-based nursery and maintained nursery		Secondary school and colleges	
	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil)	I work in school (Staff)	I study in school (Pupil/student)
	Your close contacts can stop isolating too	tested negative on his/her PCR test		
H- Do I need to restart LFD test, once I return to school after my isolation period of a positive <b>PCR</b> test?	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 <a href="#">should not be re-tested</a> within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. If, however, you do have <a href="#">an LFD test within 90 days</a> of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, and the result of this test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.	Not applicable	Not applicable as you did not need to have a confirmatory PCR test. However, if you did have a PCR test and it was positive then you would need to follow the same advice as it is for primary school staff (see column)	Not applicable as you did not need to have a confirmatory PCR test.
I- Do I need to restart LFD test, once I return to school after my isolation period of a positive LFD test?	You may choose <sup>1</sup> to take an LFD test after completion of your isolation period. If <a href="#">found positive on</a> this repeat LFD test, then you would be required to self-isolate again for 10 days, and follow the advice in this guidance again (see E)	Not applicable	You may choose to take an LFD test after completion of your isolation period. If <a href="#">found positive on</a> this repeat LFD test, then you would be required to self-isolate again for 10 days, and follow the advice in this guidance again (see E)	Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> N.B: There isn't a specific guidance on resuming routine LFD tests after a positive LFD test at present.