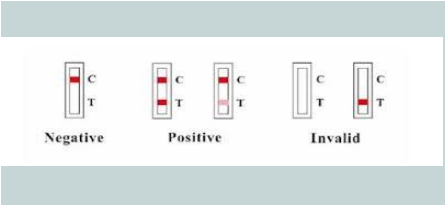
What do I do about my results?



If the test result is positive…

You and your household must self-isolate and DO NOT GO INTO SCHOOL. You may have COVID-19 and you or your parent/guardian must book a PCR test to confirm the result.

Phone your school and let the person in charge of testing know about your LFD result.

As soon as you find out the result of your PCR test, you must also let school know.

If the PCR test is positive you must continue to isolate for 10 days. Your household will also have to continue to self-isolate, along with anyone from inside school who has been identified as a close contact.

Your details will be passed to the Public Health Agency Contact Tracing Service who will ring you to discuss your close contacts outside of school.

If the test result is negative…

Go into school as normal unless you are identified by your principal as being a close contact of another student who has tested positive.

If you are identified as a close contact you will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days.

**** You must still adhere to public health guidance around social distancing, face coverings and hand washing, even if you have a negative LFD result.***

IMPORTANT

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms at any time you should immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test. Information on how to book a test can be found at www.pha.site/cvtesting

The symptoms are:

- *A high temperature*
- *OR a new continuous cough*
- *OR a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.*

What do I do now?

The testing programme is an additional way of ensuring schools are safe environments. It will work together with other measures such as social distancing, face coverings and handwashing to prevent the spread of infection in schools. Taking part in the testing programme is voluntary but the more people who take part the better the programme will be. In the coming days, your school will issue consent forms.

1. *Read the information and decide if you want to take part.*
2. *Read and sign the consent form to take part in the testing programme.*
3. *Give the signed consent form back to your school.*

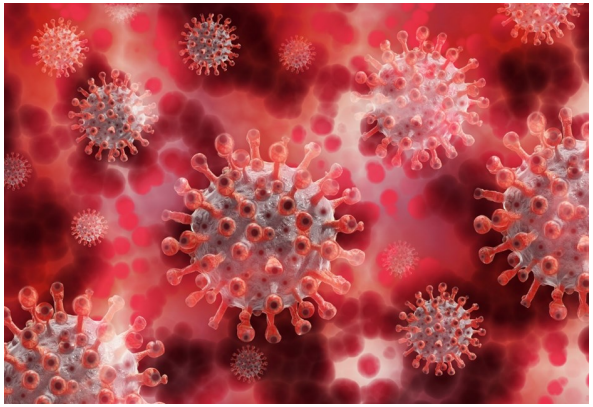
This testing programme is sponsored by the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

The Education Authority and the Public Health Agency are working in partnership to deliver the programme to all post-primary schools.

Post-Primary COVID-19 Testing Programme

A guide to Lateral Flow Testing

Information for students, staff & parents



ea Education Authority

HSC Public Health Agency

Department of Education

Department of Health



Introduction to the Lateral Flow Testing Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruption to every school in NI over the past year.

For students in Years 12, 13 and 14 the disruption has been particularly severe

*A programme of **rapid** testing for COVID-19 is now being offered to all staff and senior pupils in post-primary schools.*

The test is carried out using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD).

This programme will begin in March and run until June 2021 .

Why is the testing programme important?

*Not everyone who has COVID-19 develops symptoms. Some people are **asymptomatic** or pre -symptomatic, but unfortunately can still pass the virus on to family and friends.*

Testing in schools will help identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic staff and students who have the virus. They and their close contacts can then self-isolate. This will prevent people at risk of passing on infection attending school.

Find out more at Introduction to Rapid Lateral Flow testing - YouTube

What is a LFD Test?

An LFD allows people to carry out a COVID-19 test without the need to send samples to a laboratory.

It is can provide a result in 30 minutes.

The test is easy to use and can be taken at home.

The test works by detecting proteins which are present when a person has COVID-19.

Who will get tested?

All staff and all Year 12, 13 & 14 students will be offered testing.

Testing kits will be provided free of charge and tests will be carried out at home before coming to school.

Testing is not compulsory but by taking part in the programme everyone can help control the spread of the virus and hopefully get life back to normal as quickly as possible.

How accurate are the results from a LFD test?

No test is 100% perfect but LFD tests are fast, convenient and effective at identifying individuals who are at risk of passing infection on to others.

*A small proportion of people may receive a false positive result but in Northern Ireland anyone testing positive **must** immediately book a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR test is negative they will no longer need to isolate.*

It is also possible to get a false negative if an individual is in the early stages of infection. Regular testing reduces the risk of missing cases.

How do I do the test?

Printed instructions are provided with each test kit and you should read these carefully before carrying out the test. You might also find the following video useful.

How to do a COVID-19 Self Test (rapid antigen test) - YouTube



Some important things to remember

Store the test kit at room temperature, not in direct sunlight. Don't put it in the fridge.

Keep the test kit away from young children.

*Do not eat or drink for **at least 30 min** before doing the test. Traces of food or liquids can spoil the test.*

Blow your nose before taking a test and bin the tissue.

Wash your hands thoroughly for 20 seconds using soap and warm water or hand sanitiser. Then dry them.

Don't use the test if the sealed packaging is damaged.

*Don't touch the tongue, cheeks, gums or any other surfaces with the fabric tip of the swab. **Never** touch it with your hands. Any of these can spoil the test.*

If you have a nose piercing swab the other nostril. If pierced on both sides, remove the piercing on one side before swabbing.

If you've had a nose bleed within the last 24 hours, swab the other nostril or wait another 24 hours.

You must wait 30 mins before reading the result. A positive result can appear after 20 min but a negative result can take the full 30 min to appear.

If you get a void result, you must take another test using a new test kit. Don't forget to wash your hands again.

If you have symptoms, book a PCR test instead.