

Flying high but not solo –
together we will achieve



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Home Testing Kit for Covid-19

Principal: Mrs N Walker

Dear Parent,

Today, your child has been issued with a home testing kit for COVID-19. This follows the 3 in-school tests completed on their return to the academy. In this kit you will find 3 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) home test kits. These should be completed at home 4-5 days apart and this pack should therefore provide enough tests up to the Easter holiday.

Within the pack you will also find a 'How to' guide for conducting the tests and details of how to record the results of the test with NHS Track and Trace.

To further support you and your child with this process I have also put an assembly with guidance videos on Student SharePoint, alongside details of how to report the results to the academy.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 – please do not send them to the academy, report the result on the pupil sickness absence telephone number 01924 282740 (option 1), they will now need to self-isolate in line with national guidance, along with all household members and book a confirmatory PCR test.

If your child tests negative or the result is void please report the result using our [Microsoft form](#). The link for this can be found on the academy website homepage <https://horbury.accordmat.org/> or through Student SharePoint. You must also report the result to NHS Track and Trace. If your child tests void, they need to repeat the test, if it is void again please assume it is positive and book a PCR test.

For further details on the home testing process please refer to the FAQs attached with this letter and also the Privacy Statement on the academy website at <https://horbury.accordmat.org/documents-policies/>

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your child for participating in the testing programme and your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Gilder
Vice Principal

Pupil Home Testing Kits - FAQs

Q. How accurate is a lateral flow device test?

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. LFD tests are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and are crucial in the fight against the virus.

Extensive clinical evaluation has been carried out on the lateral flow tests. Evaluations from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

LFD tests identify individuals with the early stage of infectiousness and with the highest infectivity. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying by LFD remains important.

It is important to remember that these tests are an additional layer of health protection measure in addition to face coverings, social distancing and the risk assessment measures in place in our academies.

Q. Does every child have to test?

Testing is voluntary and pupils will be allowed to attend the academy even if they decide not to take part in testing. However, we would like to encourage all pupils to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly. **Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS PCR test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known.**

Q. What age pupils should test?

Children aged 11 and above attending a secondary school should be tested.

Q. How often should pupils take a test home?

Tests should be completed at home 4-5 days apart, therefore the first pack provided should last up to the Easter holidays.

Q. How many test kits will my child be given?

Each individual box has 3 tests. One box of 3 tests will be issued per pupil. Each pupil will also be provided with the 'Instructions for Use'.

Q. Why should my child participate in the LFD testing if they have 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. Taking a test will help to stop the spread of the virus, protect other people, and save lives.

Q. If my child has been vaccinated should they take an LFD test?

Yes, we do not yet know whether vaccines prevent individuals transmitting the virus.

Q. What happens if the lateral flow test result is negative?

Pupils with a negative LFD result can continue to attend the academy after logging their result with NHS Test and Trace and the academy. Individuals who test negative must continue to follow national and local guidelines including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing face coverings, where required.

Q. If my child has a negative LFD test at home, can they end a self-isolation period?

No, individuals must continue to self-isolate if they have been told to self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace or by the academy due to being a close contact of a positive case at the academy. The at home LFD tests are not approved to allow release from self-isolation.

Q. What should happen to contacts of pupils who have a positive LFD test and a positive confirmatory PCR test?

The academy will follow its existing policy and procedures in identifying close contacts of positive cases that would need to self-isolate.

Q. What happens if a pupil's lateral flow test result is void/invalid?

If a pupil gets a void result, this means that the test has not run correctly, and they will need to take another test as soon as possible, ideally on the same day. Pupils should still report the void result to NHS Test and Trace via the [selfreport.gov.uk page](https://selfreport.gov.uk). They should use a new test kit but not reuse anything from the first kit. In the very unlikely event pupils get two void test results, they should book a PCR test. Pupils should self-isolate pending the result of the PCR test. Pupils should inform the academy as it may indicate a faulty batch of test kits.

Q. What happens if a pupil's lateral flow test result is positive?

A positive LFD result **must be followed up by a confirmatory PCR test**. If the PCR test then confirms a negative result, this will override the test your child took at home, and they will be able to return to the academy. If the PCR test confirms the positive result your child and your household will be required to self-isolate in line with national guidance.

Q. How long does it take to administer the test?

Once the test is complete your child will need to time 30 minutes before reading their result. A video is available to show the preparation required before administering the test and how to do the test as well. The video can be found at: [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#). Please ensure you set aside enough time to undertake a second test if required, if your first test result is void.

Q. What record keeping does the academy need to do?

Schools are required to keep a test kit log, where they record which pupil has taken which kits home. This is required in the unlikely event of an incident requiring investigation or batch recall. This log will also help record that pupils have received the instructions for use.

Schools should also keep a record of pupil tests results. This will help with contact tracing, since schools cannot view pupil results otherwise.

If pupils follow the instructions in the home test kits, they must then record and share their result (whether positive, negative or void) with NHS Test and Trace.

Q. How and when does my child’s LFD result need to be reported to NHS Test & Trace?

Pupils should ensure that they provide their result (positive, negative or void) to NHS Test and Trace. There are two ways to report the result:

- You can report online by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>;
- Alternatively, you can report via telephone - lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm by calling 119.

Q. Why do we need to share information on my child’s LFD test results both with NHS Test & Trace and the academy?

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

Q. How should pupils dispose of their used test kits?

Once tests are complete, all of the used test contents must be put in the small waste bag provided in the test kit packet. Seal the bag and put the bag in your normal household waste bin at home – the home test kit waste is classified as general household waste.

Q. How does my child get more tests once we have used the first batch issued?

Once a pupil has used their first box of tests, they will be issued with a new set

Q. What impact does this testing have on protective measures in the academy?

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

Q. Will the existing government testing service remain open?

The Government’s normal testing service for symptomatic individuals will continue. This is the foundation of their 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, or 0300 303 2713 in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Q. Can our family get tested too using the academy supplied home testing kits?

No, this asymptomatic LFD testing is aimed at pupils. The tests will be handed to your child for personal use and should not be used by anyone else. Family members of pupils taking part are not eligible. If family members experience COVID-19 symptoms, they must follow standard Government guidance, including self-isolating immediately with all the household and booking a test through the [NHS Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) service](#) or by calling 119 (England and Wales).

Q. If a member of our household has coronavirus symptoms can my child attend the academy if their LFD test result is negative?

No. When any member of a household has any of the coronavirus symptoms, **all** the household must self-isolate in line with national guidance.

Q. Do I need to provide consent for my child to undertake home testing?

Your child will only be issued with the home testing kits if they have completed 3 on-site tests at the academy. As you have provided consent for your child to participate in the on-site testing, this assumes you wish for them to continue to participate in home testing. Your consent for home testing is essentially given by undertaking the test at home.

Q. What if we no longer want to participate in home testing?

Please confirm this to the academy and discard the home testing kits in your normal household waste. The testing kits should not be passed on to any other person to use.