



16th March 2021

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Guardians,

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices.' Lateral flow tests are used for people who are not showing symptoms of Coronavirus and because up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic, this test will identify anyone who has Coronavirus without them knowing. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help reduce the spread of the virus and limit disruption to education. Students have been using the lateral flow tests in school over the last two weeks and now they know what to do, the testing will now be done at home. This letter provides you with more information about using these tests at home.

How the tests work

Lateral Flow Device tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of your throat and nose exactly the same as we have been doing in the Test Centre on the school site. You will get the result in about half an hour and you will upload to the NHS track and trace website as well as report the result to the Academy by using this [form](#).

Lateral flow testing at home

We would like you to test twice a week on a Sunday evening and Wednesday evening at home. You will be issued with a pack that contains 3 lateral flows tests and full instructions for use. Each pack should last for a week and a half (3 tests) unless you get a void and you need to retest. The tests will be handed out via your child's tutor and your child will sign to say they have received it. Testing at home does not require written medical consent, consent is given by completing the test. By collecting and opening the home test kits you are giving medical consent and are legally committed to reporting your results via the NHS Test and Trace reporting system. If you have previously given consent for the on site lateral flow tests you will be given a kit to take home, if you'd like a test kit and haven't previously given consent please do email your Head of House. [4 easy stages of lateral flow testing at home](#)

How to use the lateral flow

Please carefully read the booklet given separately with the lateral flow test kit. Please be aware that the separate document replaces the instructions inside the box. An instructional [video](#) is provided on YouTube for those taking the tests.

When to test and how to report

You will be testing on a Sunday evening and Wednesday evening and reporting the result via the NHS track and trace website and via the Academy [google form](#). You are required to report the results of your tests online, or by phone, every time you use a lateral flow test even if the result was negative or void. The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Void test result

If your test result is void, you will need to report the result to the NHS as link above but also perform another lateral flow test and report that result too. If the result of the second test is negative you can come into the academy as usual and test again the next wednesday/sunday. If you receive 2 void results in a row you



should book a PCR test and self-isolate until the result of your PCR test has come through. You should not come to school or go anywhere other than a testing centre until you receive a negative result, then you can return to the academy. If this confirms a positive result, you will need to follow the rules for self-isolation for 10 days.

Positive test result

If anyone tests **positive, you, your household, or any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and our Academy through the [google form](#). You will need to [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (Confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at Lord Grey).

No lateral flow test is required for 90 days after a positive PCR.

Negative test result

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

What if I develop symptoms of Covid?

This testing programme of at home lateral flow tests is for people with no symptoms. If anyone develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting [Book a PCR](#)

Dates of testing

The kit of 3 Tests you have been given this week are for the following dates of testing, (please be aware if the swab becomes contaminated by touching gums, tongue or teeth you will need a fresh swab and you will need to use your spare in the kit.)

Test 1: Evening of Sunday 21st March
Test 2: Evening of Wednesday 24th March
Test 3: Evening of Sunday 28th March*

You will receive 2 x test kits during w/c 21/3/21 to continue testing over the Easter holidays (**government guidelines)

Test 1: Evening of Wednesday 31st March*
Test 2: Evening of Sunday 4th April*
Test 3: Evening of Wednesday 7th April*
(every Sunday and Wednesday after that)

*(please note the Government guidance from Friday 12th March that students will be expected to test in the Easter Holidays and report their result to the Academy and NHS Track and Trace)

Please do see the [Privacy statement](#) that accompanies our lateral flow testing at home.

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend whether they take part in testing or not. We are strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend Lord Grey Academy as safely as possible.

Thank you for your support.

We will support our pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01908 626110 or email your head of house in the first instance.

Yours faithfully,

Samantha Satyanadhan
Vice Principal and Covid Coordinator

Debbie Hawkins
Business Manager and Covid Coordinator

Please find an electronic copy of the booklet which will accompany the lateral flow test kits
<https://www.lordgrey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Covid-19-Self-Test-Instruction-for-Use-IFU-Guide.pdf>

If you'd like the booklet in other languages please do use this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/instructions-for-covid-19-self-test?utm_source=10%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DFE%20C19

Frequently asked Questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice [Privacy statement](#)

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the test to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Lord Grey Academy, regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** and please also tell the Lord Grey Academy.

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

What type of tests will be used?

The Academy is sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give the results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as wearing face coverings, washing your hands regularly and maintaining social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus - they give rapid results within 30 minutes