

# COVID-19 RAPID LATERAL FLOW HOME TEST KITS

## GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

### **How to get a rapid lateral flow test for the households and families of Primary school children - a guide for parents and carers.**

All children have returned to school from 8<sup>th</sup> March and, all being well, life should hopefully start to return to some kind of normality over the next few months.

The Government set out in February a 'roadmap' out of the Covid-19 restrictions; as part of that regular **rapid flow testing** is being promoted to assist in detecting cases of Covid-19 and keeping them under control.

As part of this plan, households of primary and secondary-school children are being offered free regular Rapid Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) devices for home use.

### **Who will be tested?**

Secondary school and college students who are asymptomatic will be tested twice a week, first at school and then eventually at home.

Primary school children who are asymptomatic will NOT be tested regularly due to low levels of transmission between younger age children, however members of primary school children's households are being offered free twice-weekly tests using rapid lateral flow tests - including tests for people in childcare and support bubbles.

Even though primary school children are not being tested, they will need to be tested of course if they show any [symptoms of Covid-19](#).

### **Why are households of primary school children being offered lateral flow tests?**

Families are being offered tests to help find more cases of Covid-19 and to try and break any chains of transmission.

About a third of people with coronavirus show no symptoms and potentially spread it without knowing.

The government is keen that households take part in targeted, regular testing so that more positive cases within households are found and stopped from entering schools and colleges, helping to keep places of education safe.

Rapid testing detects cases quickly meaning anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak.

### Where do I get the lateral flow tests from?

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:

1. **Through your employer** if they offer testing to employees - contact your employer to find out.
2. **At a local test site** - testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)

### 3. By collecting a home test kit from a test site.

You can collect two packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains seven tests.

Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

### 4. By ordering a home test kit 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.

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

### What does twice-weekly testing involve?

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 result online](#) 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
- 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 handwashing, social distancing and wearing a face covering where recommended.

### How long does it take to get the result?

It only takes 30 minutes to get a result from the test.

### When should I start doing the tests?

Tests are available now and parents and carers should begin testing once their children have returned to school this month (March).

### Do I have to do the tests?

Taking part in testing is strongly encouraged but is not mandatory.

In a statement Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

"As we continue to roll out the vaccine, testing offers us a way forward. Sustained and repeated testing for people without symptoms has a critical role to play as sections of society are reopened by driving down transmission rates.

"By everyone playing their part and getting tested regularly, vital public services, workplaces and educational settings can stay open and running, and we can move closer to a more normal way of life."

Professor Yvonne Doyle, Medical Director at Public Health England, added: "These rapid tests help uncover hidden cases of the virus and break chains of transmission, stopping outbreaks before they occur.

"Combined with other protective measures, they are a vital tool to help us lower infection rates and ensure that they stay low.

"I would encourage all eligible households to take up the offer of twice weekly rapid testing – it's quick and painless and could help save lives."

---

*Note: If you or a member of your family shows any symptoms of coronavirus they should stay home and book a test [online here](#).*

---

**Further info:**

[Government guidance - Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff](#)