

14th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Home Testing for Pupils

I would like to thank all our pupils who have completed their first two on site LFD tests. They have all done really well and helped the process to run very smoothly. As part of their third test at school either Monday (Years 9-11) or Tuesday (Years 7-8), we will move to the next step which is providing students with home testing kits.

Taking part in testing is voluntary and pupils will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. I am, though, strongly encouraging all pupils to take part. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing as they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. Members of our school community can do this by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

Taking test kits home

Pupils will be able to collect their home test kits from the Sports Hall Test Centre when they complete their third test at school. Pupils will be given two boxes (each containing three test kits) with a separate leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. The tests are assigned to the pupils through kit numbers and must not be used by anyone else.

Taking the test

Pupils should take the test two times every week, ideally before school on Monday and Thursday mornings. They must make sure they have enough time to do the test in the morning before going to school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging and, in these cases, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed (Sunday and Wednesday evenings before bed).

[Help and support is available, including instructions in different languages](#), on how to test and report the results and a [video showing you how to take the test](#) is also available to watch.

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

Testing at home does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Can pupils take the test themselves?

- Pupils aged 12 to 17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the child to take the test if they need support and ensure the result is reported.
- Pupils aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result. You need to report each test result.

The result of each test must be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

You will also need to tell the school the result of each test by returning this very quick online [results form](#).

Further Information

Further information on home testing can be found via the following:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) attached with this letter
- Testing yourself for coronavirus – leaflet from UK Government/NHS Test and Trace
- www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help

If you have any questions about home testing, please do not hesitate to contact the school by email at enquiries@greenbankhigh.co.uk.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards

Ian Raikes

Headteacher

Frequently Answered Questions – Pupils Home Testing

What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You should report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school via the [link](#) in the letter above.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Test Centre at school).

If the result of the test is unclear (void) you will need to do another test.

Negative and void results should also be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and school.

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.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow national guidelines on self isolation and testing.

Do I need to give consent?

Pupils 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.

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to NHS Test & Trace and school.

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 school. 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://coronavirusyellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

What type of tests will be used?

We will be 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 results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-peoplewithout-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 and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are two 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 off the sample for processing at a laboratory
- Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests detect proteins called ‘antigens’ produced by the virus – they give rapid results within 30 minutes

What does it mean if I have a positive result?

If you have a positive antigen LFD test result you, your household and 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 & Trace and school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Test Centre at school).

[You can book a test here.](#)

What does it mean if I have a negative 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.

What if I have a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), you should take another one. If the next test is also void, you should take a PCR test. You can book a test [here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and school.

Do I need to send the test to a laboratory?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test.

How do you report the result?

Once you have taken the test, you will need to report the result online (whether it is positive, negative or void) using this service. You also need to tell school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result. All test results need to be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and school.

Can someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No; however, whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information
- attend a test site to get tested where you will be able to see how to take the test or pick up tests to do at home (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site COVID Test Finder (test-andtrace.nhs.uk)

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

[There is more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students.](#)