

# Lateral Flow Testing

## **Why are we testing?**

- Regular testing of school staff and students allows us to catch positive COVID-19 cases early, thus preventing them from entering the community.
- The tests are not compulsory – students can opt out if they wish.
- The tests do not replace social distancing, masks etc; they are another barrier to the systems we have in place.

## **What are the tests?**

- The tests are rapid Lateral Flow Tests that give a positive or negative result in 30 minutes.
- They detect the antigens, the proteins, on the virus' surface.
- Proteins in the sample you give move up the test strip and the Coronavirus proteins bind to a specific spot, creating a line like on a pregnancy test.

## **How it will work:**

- Parents complete the MS form (link in the email) to opt their child in or out (a separate form is required for each child). By opting in you are also consenting to the updated Privacy Notice (attached to the email and displayed on the school website).
- Kits will be recorded and distributed to students during registration between 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March (you will be advised by text message on the day your child is bringing their test kit home)
- Tests are taken at home twice a week. Staff and students will test on Monday and Thursday, beginning on March 22<sup>nd</sup> (there is no requirement to test for 90 days after having a positive PCR test, unless your child develops new symptoms)
- Tests should be carried out in the morning before school (because the night before allows too much time before coming to school). However, you may choose to do the testing the night before, especially for the first time.
- The tests take 30mins, but allow 1hr in case a test needs repeating.
- The results have to be recorded on a Govt. website (similar to car tax) and school needs to be notified of the results.
- Tests are only to be used by the student.

## **How to administer the tests**

- View the video demonstration (refer to the 'quick link' document attached to the email).
- Please note the instructions in the box must be discarded, students will be given an up to date instruction sheet with their kit.
- Tests for students age 11 must be administered by an adult, students age 12 and above can self-swab but must be supervised.
- Home test instructions:
  1. Wash or sanitise hands
  2. Remove items from test packet and begin immediately (within 30 minutes of opening)

3. Twist and open the buffer sachet
4. Squeeze the solution into the extraction tube. **Do not touch the extraction tube with the sachet.**
5. Gently blow your nose
6. Wash / sanitise hands again
7. Open swab at the opposite end to the soft tip and remove. **Do not touch the soft tip.**
8. Rub over both tonsils making contact with each tonsil 4 times. **Do not touch your lips, cheek, tongue or teeth.**
9. Insert same swab up one nostril until you meet some resistance. Do both nostrils if you can't swab your tonsils.
10. Rotate 10 times and remove.
11. Insert swab into the extraction tube and firmly press the tip into the bottom of the extraction tube.
12. Rotate the swab firmly for 15 seconds
13. Remove the swab whilst pinching it with the sides of the extraction tube to squeeze out all the liquid.
14. Dispose of the swab in the provided plastic bag.
15. Put the lid on the extraction tube.
16. Place 2 drops of the liquid (**no bubbles**) onto the test strip. Test strip must be on a level surface.
17. Leave for exactly 30 minutes.
18. The used test kit should be put in the plastic bag for disposal in your normal waste

**DO NOT:**

- Use equipment more than once
- Swab pierced nostrils
- Swab nostrils with nosebleeds
- Eat or drink 30 minutes before (probably best to do this as soon as your child rises) must be at room temperature.
- Wait less or more than 30 minutes for the result.

**Results of tests**

- Either negative, positive or VOID
- There are 2 lines to look for on the test: C and T
- C = control
- T = test
- CONTROL: this line shows that the test is working
- TEST: this line is where the Coronavirus proteins bind to.
  - **Just a C line:** Negative
  - **A line at C and at T:** Positive. Some T lines will be very feint.
  - **Just a T line:** Void – the test has not worked. Repeat the test with a new kit.
- **All test results need to be recorded on the gov.uk website:**
  - [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

- **All test results also need to reported to school via MF forms**  
*(refer to the 'quick links' document accompanying the email)*
  
- ***The test result is positive***
  - Your child must not attend school.
  - Advise school as soon as possible either by calling or emailing attend@tpstrust.co.uk.
  - Record the LFT results
  - Book a PCR test – advise the school once the result is received.
  
- ***The test result is negative***
  - Record the results
  - Child to attend school as usual
  
- ***The test result is VOID***
  - Your child must retake the test with a new kit.
  - A second VOID should be assumed as a positive and a PCR test should be booked.
  - Advise the school as soon as possible
  - Provide a further update to the school once the PCR test result is received

# How the rapid tests work

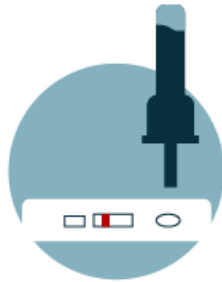
**1** Swab from nose or throat



**2** Specimen added to extraction tube



**3** Drops of extraction solution added to test cartridge



**4** Wait 20-30 mins



**5** Read results

