

# Staff and pupil/student testing – quick, safe, easy

Staff and pupils/students will be tested using validated Lateral Flow Antigen tests

Up to **a third of individuals who test positive for coronavirus have no symptoms** at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. That is why the testing of people without symptoms is so important. Identifying those who unknowingly have the virus will save lives. This is known as ‘**mass testing**’.

By **testing staff once a week** we will be helping to keep schools and colleges as safe as we can.

We will also be able to **keep more teachers, support staff and pupils/students in education**. Previously, close contacts had to isolate if one student or staff member tested positive. Now, those who are close contacts can return to school/college if they agree to be tested once a day in the morning – known as ‘**serial testing**’.

Both staff and pupils/students will be eligible for serial testing in the initial phase, though only staff will be eligible initially for weekly testing.

## Quick

Swabbing and processing of these tests will be conducted at a dedicated testing site in school / college **once a week** either by trained personnel or as a self-test with supervision from trained personnel, with **results in around 30 minutes**.

## Safe

These tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.8% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load. Hence, the need to test frequently.

When used in combination with other measures such as PPE, washing hands regularly and social distancing, these tests will enable people to live their lives in as normal a way as possible.

Lateral flow antigen tests detect the presence or absence of coronavirus by applying a swab or saliva sample to the device’s absorbent pad.

## Easy

Lateral flow devices **do not require a laboratory** to process the test. The devices are designed to be intuitive and require minimal training to operate.



## Lateral Flow Testing



Accessible and easy to use



No lab required, with fast results



Safe technology

Note: graphics on this page have been developed to communicate with parents and students. For older students there is an animated video here: <https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1328387524490911745?s=20>

There are also resources available for schools / colleges to talk to young people about COVID and mass testing at [www.storicise.com](http://www.storicise.com)