

Information for Parents on Covid Tests and when to use them

The guidance states that a lateral flow (LFD) test is irrelevant for children of primary school age and there should be no situation in which these are used. We appreciate that it can appear to be a way of managing children who are unwell or creating peace of mind but this is not the intention of these types of test. Children who display symptoms must be tested through a PCR. Symptoms include a cough or temperature or loss of taste or smell.

Lateral Flow Device Tests (LFD Tests) – these are the tests which are developed at home within 30 minutes

- These tests are **for adults or children at secondary schools/colleges**.
- **LFD tests are not for primary school aged pupils.**
- These tests are to be used by secondary school/college pupils and adults, twice weekly, **where there are no symptoms**.
- If anyone has symptoms, these tests are not to be used and, instead, a PCR Test must be organised (see below).
- If a positive LFD Test result is identified during asymptomatic testing, a PCR Test must be organised to confirm the result.
- It is important to understand that where a child has symptoms and has been tested with an LFD Test, this will not be a recognised result and we **will not** allow the child to return to school in line with the national guidance – a negative PCR test is required to allow a child with symptoms to return to school.

Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (PCR Test) – these are the tests which are taken at a test centre or delivered to home and are sent off for processing. These tests are arranged online [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by telephoning 119

- These tests have the highest validity and are processed in a laboratory.
- Anyone with symptoms **must** arrange for a PCR Test. Anyone else in the household who is double vaccinated or children under 18, may continue to go to work or school, anyone else in the household must isolate.
- If there is a positive PCR Test, the rest of the household should arrange for a PCR test. While this is undertaken, anyone who is double vaccinated and children under 18 may continue to go to work or school.

Should my primary aged child have a Covid-19 test?

