

Lateral Flow Testing – Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if the result of your Lateral Flow Test is positive?

Please inform the school on absence@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk . Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home, or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, preferably choose to visit a drive-through test site, as it is faster than requesting a home test through the post.

During this time, your child and any close contacts will need to self-isolate while they wait for the PCR result via text / email.

If the PCR test returns a positive result, your child and close contacts will need to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

If the PCR test returns a negative result, your child and close contacts can stop self-isolating and return to school/work.

What happens if the result of your Lateral Flow Test is negative?

Pupils will be able to come to school and resume their activities as normal. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What happens if the result of your Lateral Flow Test is void (invalid)?

Please use a second test and take a fresh swab of your nose and throat. Please log the void test as well as the second test with both the NHS and the school.

What if a close contact tests positive?

If this happens, any close contact to the person who tested positive need to self-isolate as per the national guidance. Household members of the close contact do not need to self-isolate and can continue to attend school/work.

What if my child develops symptoms?

The home testing kits are for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste), they and any close contacts must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Do I have to swab both the throat and the nostril?

If you are not able to swab both the throat and nostril, you can swab two nostrils instead.

How do I stop the solution spilling everywhere when I open the extraction buffer sachet?

To stop this spilling please make sure that all the solution is down the bottom of the sachet by flicking the sachet to get the extraction buffer down to the bottom before opening the tube.

How do I stop bubbles being placed on the specimen well of the test strip?

To stop bubbles please make sure that you tip the extraction tube vertical to make sure all extraction buffer goes to the cap and squeeze the tube gently to get two drops.

How can I remove a bubble from the specimen well?

Try where possible to remove the bubbles from the test strip by gently squeezing the extraction tube and placing it over the bubble on the specimen well, then releasing the squeeze on the extraction tube to suck the bubble back into it.

I have put my two drops on the specimen well of the test strip, but nothing is happening?

If this happens, pick up the test strip and gently tap it against a hard surface keeping the test kit horizontal at all times. This should then allow the extraction buffer to make contact with the test strip and for the test to start working.

If this does not solve the issue, please register the test as void, re-blow your nose and try taking the swab again using a new test strip.

Does it matter which days I test on?

Pupils should be tested prior to their first day of school each week to ensure that they are safe to attend school. The second test each week needs to be three to five days later than the first test.

What should I do if I damage/loose/break part of my home test kit?

Please contact Andrew Perrett at aperrett@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk, who will be able to advise/sort out any items that need replacing.