



20/04/2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Lateral Flow Tests**

As you will have no doubt seen in the press, it has now been decided by Welsh Government that schools can offer Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) to learners from Year 7 to Year 11. The overall public health position is improving significantly and the vaccine programme is progressing at some pace. All learners in comprehensive schools will now be able to access LFTs should they choose to undertake regular twice weekly asymptomatic testing at home. This process is completely **voluntary** and we understand if you do not wish to be part of the programme as some pupils may find the process upsetting and it may be difficult to administer.

Please take note of the information below:

- This remains a voluntary offer and should in no way be seen as a 'test to enable' or a 'test to access' face-to-face learning.
- All LFT results (negative, void or positive) should be reported to NHS Test Trace Protect (TTP) via the website each time a test is taken. There is no need to report test results to the school or setting unless it is a positive result.
- Should you wish to take part, please take care when entering results on the website, double check to ensure the correct result is submitted. Incorrectly entering a test result can result in individuals having to isolate and take further tests or in TTP failing to reach the correct people when they need to.
- Tests should only be used by the individual that is supplied with the LFTs and only when the individual is not showing any symptoms of Coronavirus and has not previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
- Please watch the instructional video in the link below if you are intending for your child to undertake these tests.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

If individuals have coronavirus symptoms, they should self-isolate and arrange to have a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. You can book this online or by calling 119. You should not use the lateral flow device (LFD) test if you have symptoms.

### **Common questions that have been asked:**

#### **How do I undertake the test?**

Training is not required and guides are attached, the tests can be self-administered and come with clear instructions, but in summary:

- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly
- Remove the test (being careful not to touch the soft part)
- Open your mouth wide. Use the swab to rub the back of your throat firmly four times on each side
- Remove the swab without touching teeth, tongue or gums
- Gently place it in your nostrils (2.5 cm inside) and rub the swab along the lining of your nostril 4-5 times
- Remove (being careful the swab doesn't touch anything)
- Place it in the tube for testing for 30 minutes and await the result (a coloured line will appear if positive)
- Wash hands thoroughly after disposing of the test



Each time an individual takes a test they need to record the result via the online results portal (which can be accessed via a smartphone) or by the phone number provided in the test kit. This needs to be done each time a test is taken regardless of whether the result is negative or positive.

### **What do I do if the result is positive?**

If the result is positive you will need to:

- Record this via the online results portal. It is strongly recommended that pupils/learners seek the support of their parents/guardians.
- Notify your household members of the result and ask them to start self-isolating as soon as possible.
- **You will need to notify your school ASAP**
- Those that work in childcare settings will also need to notify Care Inspectorate Wales
- Confirm the positive result by arranging a PCR test at a testing centre within 24 hours of the positive LFT. You can arrange a test by booking online or by calling 119.

### **Do I have to take a test in order to attend school?**

No. The purpose of this testing offer is to try and quickly find those who are carrying the virus without displaying any symptoms and ask them to self-isolate. This will reduce disruption to face-to-face education.

### **What is involved with the asymptomatic testing for education and childcare?**

Education and registered childcare and play settings will have access to Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) for distribution to any eligible individuals that would like to take part. This enables anyone who is eligible to undertake a test for coronavirus at home twice a week.

### **Which learners will be eligible to access routine testing?**

All learners in comprehensive schools will now be able to access LFDs should they choose to undertake regular twice weekly asymptomatic testing and have completed the required consent forms. This testing should take place on a Monday and Thursday starting on Monday May 3rd.

### **What is a Lateral Flow Test Device?**

Lateral Flow (Antigen) testing involves the processing of nasal and throat swab samples with a Lateral Flow Device (LFD). The device, best described as looking like a home pregnancy test, detects a protein (antigen) produced by the virus. If present in the person's sample, a coloured line appears on the device that can be read between 20-30 minutes after processing. There is no charge for the tests which will be supplied by the school.

### **If I've previously had coronavirus in the last 90 days should I still undertake twice weekly testing?**

Anyone that has previously tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test should not be tested on this programme within a period of 90 days from their initial illness onset or test (if asymptomatic).

### **I have been vaccinated should I still take the tests?**

Yes, the LFD test confirms if you are infectious to other people. Current scientific advice is that vaccinated individuals should still take part in the same way as anyone who has not been vaccinated. This will be kept under review and any changes will be communicated through the schools and settings leads.

In the meantime, you must follow the self-isolation guidance and self-isolate for 10 days, as will all members of your household. This should start immediately from the LFD positive test result. If the PCR test result taken within 24 hours is negative you can end your self-isolation period and resume twice weekly testing.

### **What do I do if the result is negative?**

If the test result is negative, you will need to record this via the online results portal but no further action is required and you can continue your day as usual. All results must be recorded.



### **How do I dispose of the test?**

Regardless of the test result, once your test is complete, put all of the used test kit contents in the waste bag provided. Seal the bag and keep this in a safe place for 72 hours, after this time dispose of the bag in your general household waste.

We have had no indication of how long these lateral flow tests will be used for but will post these tests to you. We feel this is safer and easier to monitor than distributing them in school.

### **Electronic consent form for commencement of Lateral Flow tests on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Just a quick reminder that these tests are voluntary and will commence on Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup>

**We require the consent form below (please click on link below) to be completed for all Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April if you wish to take part.** Assuming we get delivery of the new LFT kits, pupils who opt to take part (with the electronic consent completed) will be given a box of test kits to bring home by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Parents/ Carers of those pupils on the programme will receive a text reminding them which day the testing kits have been sent out via pupils.

Please see below a link to a Microsoft Form for Lateral Flow Tests. You must complete this form if you wish to take part in the testing programme:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4\\_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k7r1ZoJS5BtBuIWBLCuZyIZURUU0TjZWVWUUE1WE9WUk02TIE5SFc4RC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k7r1ZoJS5BtBuIWBLCuZyIZURUU0TjZWVWUUE1WE9WUk02TIE5SFc4RC4u)

If you have any queries regarding LFTs please email or telephone the school.

Other key points:

- this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Remember to complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.

For parents/carers/guardians of under 16s, please make sure that you have discussed the testing with your child and your child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so.

By completing the online form, you agree to the following:

1. I consent to participate/ my child participating in this testing programme.
2. I have understood that my/my child's data will be held and shared in accordance with the data privacy notice.
3. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive, I / my child will inform the school immediately to support contact tracing.
4. I agree to accurately record all of my/my child's test results at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

Kind regards,

Mr L. Lewis  
Headteacher,  
Ysgol Hendrefelin