

Supervised Self-Test Project - communications for schools and colleges to use with parents and pupils about the model

We are taking part in a project run by the Department for Education and NHS Test and Trace to encourage participation in regular rapid testing amongst secondary school and college students.

Testing has been playing a vital role in the response to COVID-19. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country. That is why we would like all students at our school to take part in the project.

Currently, students take lateral flow device tests twice a week at home to detect asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 and report the results themselves, with the assistance of their parents or carers. We also currently have the option for students to test on-site at school should they wish to.

As part of this project, we are now going to ask students to take at least one of their twice weekly tests at school. Students will be asked to self-swab and process the test (as they have been doing at home) in a designated area. A trained staff member will then monitor the test result as it develops and will read and report the result on the students' behalf. This is different to the previous Asymptomatic Test Site (ATS) model where students self-swabbed and trained staff processed the test, as well as reading and reporting the result.

Testing in this way should make the process faster and easier for students compared to when they test and report themselves at home. It should also make it easier for trained staff to oversee the testing compared to the previous ATS model. This quicker process will encourage and support more students to participate in testing and report results.

When will supervised self-testing start?

Supervised self-testing will commence in year groups as per the outline on the parental letter.

Students will be required to bring in their home test kit to conduct it at school.

Students will still be testing twice each week, 3-4 days apart as per:

[\(https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/)

What will happen if a pupil/student tests positive?

As before, if a student has a positive test result, they will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the [stay-at-home guidance until they receive their confirmatory PCR test](#). They should inform their educational setting of their result so the setting can identify close contacts. Anyone who lives with them and anyone in their support bubble, should [self-isolate in accordance with current national and local guidance](#).

We will continue to manage and notify any close contacts of students with positive results.