Questions and Answers for Parents / Carers on Lateral Flow Testing

What are the symptoms of Covid 19?

> ➢ a new continuous cough
> ➢ a high temperature
> ➢ loss of or change to sense of smell or taste (Anosmia)

Did you know? Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms!

What is a Lateral Flow Test?

A Lateral Flow Test (or LFT) is a test that looks for presence of Covid-19. It is a rapid test and designed to be used by individuals with no symptoms. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy to do.

Does my child have to take the tests?

No. The tests are not compulsory. However, we hope the large majority of parents do give their consent. Lateral Flow Testing helps to identify people who have Covid-19 before they develop symptoms and will help to reduce the number of people they spread it to, thereby reducing the transmission rate. The more the transmission rate is reduced the quicker we will be able to get back to normal.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school/college safely. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

Does the testing system mean that the school will stop the other safety measures put in place to combat the spread of Covid?

No. All the other safety precautions must remain in place and we need to work together as staff and parents to give students the message that if they get a negative test result, they still need to be vigilant and follow the other safety measures

How effective are Lateral Flow Tests?

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 (99.68% 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.

What does the test involve?

The Lateral Flow Test and is a swab on the back of the throat and nostrils.

Where should the test be taken?

The test should be taken at home. The test takes about 30 mins.

When should the test be taken?

It is advised that the test is carried out on the same days every week. The days need to be 3-4 days apart.   The school will advise on the day they want testing carried out.

My child has had a positive Covid test in the past. Can they still participate in the lateral Flow Testing (LFT) scheme?

If they have had a positive PCR test, they should **NOT** undertake repeat testing (including with LFT) for 90 days **UNLESS** new symptoms develop.

My child has symptoms of Covid, Can they go to school if they have a negative Lateral Flow Test?

No. If your child has Covid symptoms they should stay at home and book a PCR test. They should not go into school regardless of whether they have tested as negative on a Lateral Flow Test.

How to take the COVID-19 LFD test

You need to use a swab to take a sample from the back of your throat and from your nose.

Once you have taken the sample, you dip the swab into an extraction solution and then onto the lateral flow test's paper pad.

You will see the result on the device 30 minutes after you have applied the sample. There is no need to send the sample to a lab.

How to interpret the results
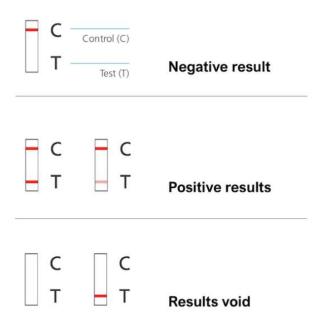
Test results

Image showing the results a lateral flow test might show

The line on the test strip is very faint.

A faint line is to be treated as a line.

I forgot to read my test at 30 mins.

You will need to retake your test. The test is considered invalid (void) if read after 30 minutes.

There is no control line on the test strip.

The test is void and will need to be repeated.

When do I need to put my result on the portal?

You must upload your result (whether positive, negative or void) onto the Portal as soon as you have taken your test. A positive test result will go through to Flintshire TTP and they will make contact with the positive case.

Help! The Lateral Flow Test (LFT) result is positive!

➢ A positive test Lateral Flow Test must be reported to the school immediately. Your child and any siblings **must not** come into school.

➢ You will need to book them in for a standard Covid test at a local test Centre where a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test will be able to confirm the positive Lateral Flow test result. These PCR tests are processed in a laboratory. and confirms the positive LFT and in addition is able to tell us what Covid variant your child has.

➢ The PCR test should be taken within 24 hours. This can be booked online by following this link
https://gov.wales/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19.

Do we have to isolate as a household whilst we wait for the PCR result?

Yes. The whole family must isolate if your child gets a positive Lateral Flow Test.

What happens if the PCR test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

What if my child develops symptoms in-between Lateral Flow Tests?

The Lateral Flow Test is for individuals 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 must immediately self-isolate, and book a PCR test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting https://gov.wales/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19#section-57345.

Dos and Don'ts for Lateral Flow Testing

- **<u>Do not</u> use a Lateral Flow Test if you have Covid 19 symptoms. In such instances a PCR test <u>must</u> be booked**
- **Do not let someone else use your kit**
- **<u>Never</u> use a Lateral Flow Test as a way to 'clear' yourself for school or to break Lockdown or Social Distancing rules**
- **A negative result does not guarantee that you do not have coronavirus. The test might not detect the virus if you were recently infected or are in the incubation at the time of the test.**
- **You <u>must</u> continue to follow coronavirus rules, including:**

  - ➢ **regular hand washing**
  - ➢ **social distancing**
  - ➢ **wearing face coverings where required**

<u>Further information:</u>

https://gov.wales/routine-testing-education-and-childcare-staff-html

https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-support-limited-attendance-html

https://gov.wales/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19