

Information Regarding COVID-19 testing at home for students

Contents and links to key information:

1) **[Brief update on twice-weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students.](#)**

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- [How to order testing kits for parents, households and bubbles](#)

2) **[Letter to parents, carers and students giving detailed information about home testing.](#)**

Including:

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3) **[Poster showing steps for using Home Testing Kits](#)**

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An electronic copy of this information is available on the school website [here](#) under the parents/carers section 'Covid Home Testing for Students'

http://www.midtech.com/docs/covid/home_covid_testing.pdf

1) Update on twice-weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students

Dear parent/carer,

Students will shortly be moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their first three supervised tests on site at school/college.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child from w/c March 15. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before.**

Testing during the Easter School holiday

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays.** We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Reporting results

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

It is important to keep a note of your child's results and share with school or college as well <https://tinyurl.com/3cufesfk>

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

Yours faithfully,

Janine Kellett

2) Detailed information about Covid Home Testing for Students.

Dear Parent/Carer and Students

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in schools carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

[The Government has recently announced that](#) all secondary and college aged students will be offered tests to make the return to school safer for everyone.

Testing students at home

Students will be given home testing kits in school during WB 15th March.

We would like them to take their tests before school on [Sunday night or Monday morning](#) and again on [Wednesday night or Thursday morning](#)

You will also need to tell the school the result of each test using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3cufesfk>

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive 2 boxes, each with 3 tests and a leaflet on how to prepare and take the test and report the results.

Make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed. You need to report test results.

Taking the test

Students should take the test, before coming into school, twice a week. We will give students a leaflet (please use the one attached to the box and throw away the old version which is inside the box) with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

[Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste). It shouldn't be recycled.

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and your [school](#).

You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

Negative and void results should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and [school](#).

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

You need to report each test result

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

You will also need to tell the school the result of each test using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3cufesfk>

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

I am strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Please contact, our COVID Coordinator via enquiries@middtech.com, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs J Kellett

Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice (enclosed).

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school, regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the student to take the test if they need support.

Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** and please also tell the school.

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus

LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both NHS Test & Trace and your school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school). You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands.

What if my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

How do you report the result?

Using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information
- attend a test site to get tested where you will be able to see how to take the test or pick up tests to do at home (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19/test-and-trace)

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students](#).

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your child's name
- your child's test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

You will also need to tell your child's school or college their test result.

Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice (enclosed).

3) Poster showing how to complete a COVID-19 self-test

Please also read the full instructions in the blue booklet sent home with the testing kits.

Four easy stages of a rapid COVID-19 self-test **NHS**
Test and Trace

1 Set-up: sanitise testing area and hands, unpack kit, read instructions

2 Swab: throat then nose

3 Process test: place swab in liquid in tube, squeeze liquid onto test device

4 Read result: ensure test device is on a flat surface, wait and read result at 30 minutes

4 Middleton Technology School – COVID-19 Testing at home of pupils and students in Secondary Schools and Colleges Privacy Statement

Ownership of the Personal Data

To enable the Covid-19 testing to be completed at Middleton Technology School, we need to process personal data, including the sharing of personal data where this is allowed under data protection legislation. Middleton Technology School is the Data Controller for the data required for the management of tests and implementing local arrangements in the event of a positive test and undertaking any actions needed by school as part of the school's health (including public health), welfare and safeguarding role and obligations.

Personal data relating to tests for pupils is processed under article 6 (1) (e) of the UK GDPR (public task). This is based on the school's proprietor's official authority for the conduct of the school. Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Education Act 2002 for maintained schools **OR** paragraph 7 of the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 for independent schools including Academy Schools and Alternative Provision Academies are also relevant.

We will process special category personal data under the provisions of article 9.2(i) of the UK GDPR, and Part 1 of Schedule 1(3) of DPA 2018 where it is in the public interest on Public Health Grounds to ensure we can minimise the spread of COVID in a timely manner and enable us to continue to deliver education services as safely and securely as possible. This data is processed under the obligations set out in Public Health legislation (Regulations 3(1) and (4) of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI)) which allows the sharing of data for COVID related purposes and where it is carried out by a health care professional **OR** someone who owes an equivalent duty of confidentiality to that data.

Ownership of the Personal Data you share with DHSC

Every time you use a lateral flow test you must report the results. More details can be found here - [Report a COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/report-a-covid-19-test-result). The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) is the data controller for the information that you transfer to them about you and your test results. For more information about what the DHSC do with your data please see their [COVID-19 Privacy Notice](#)

The school remains the Data Controller for the data we retain about you for the management of tests and implementing local arrangements in the event of a positive test.

You should read both this Privacy Notice and the DHSC COVID-19 Privacy Notice to understand how your personal data is used prior to taking a test.

Personal Data involved

The following personal data is processed by the school in relation to your test:

- Name
- Unique code assigned to each individual test and which will become the primary reference number for the tests.
- Test result

For more information about what the DHSC do with your data please see their [COVID-19 Privacy Notice](#)

How we store your personal information

The school will maintain a test kit log which will record against your name details of the testing kit which has been provided to you. The school may also record Personal Data about you in its internal COVID-19 test register the school's COVID-19 test register will not be shared with DHSC. This information will only be stored securely on locally managed systems with appropriate access controls in schools/colleges and will only be accessible to personnel involved in the management of tests and implementing local arrangements in the event of a positive test.

The school will retain its test kit log and COVID-19 test register for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of the last entries made by the school into them.

For more information about what the DHSC do with your data please see their [COVID-19 Privacy Notice](#)

Processing of Personal Data Relating to Positive test results

We will use this information to enact our own COVID isolation and control processes without telling anyone who it is that has received the positive test.

For more information about what the DHSC do with your data please see their [COVID-19 Privacy Notice](#)

This information will be kept by the school for a period of twelve (12) months and by the NHS for eight (8) years.

Processing of Personal Data Relating to Negative and Void test results

We will record a negative and void result for the purpose of stock controls of tests and general performance of the testing process.

Data Sharing Partners

The personal data associated with test results will be shared with

- DHSC, NHS, PHE – to ensure that they can undertake the necessary Test and Trace activities and to conduct research and compile statistical information about Coronavirus.
- Your GP – the NHS may share the information you provide with your GP to maintain your medical records and to offer support and guidance as necessary. Any data you provide to the school will not be shared with your GP.
- Local Government to undertake local public health duties and to record and analyse local spreads.

Personal Data in the school's test kit log will be shared with DHSC to identify which test kit has been given to which individual in the event of a product recall. The school will not share its internal COVID-19 test register with DHSC.

Your Rights

Under data protection law, you have rights including:

Your right of access - You have the right to ask us for copies of your personal information.

Your right to rectification - You have the right to ask us to rectify personal information you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask us to complete information you think is incomplete.

Your right to erasure - You have the right to ask us to erase your personal information in certain circumstances.

Your right to restriction of processing - You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.

Your right to object to processing - You have the the right to object to the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.

Your right to data portability - You have the right to ask that we transfer the personal information you gave us to another organisation, or to you, in certain circumstances.

You are not required to pay any charge for exercising your rights. If you make a request, we have one month to respond to you.

Please contact us at enquiries@middtech.com, 0161 643 5116 or via Middleton Technology School, Kenyon Lane, Middleton, M24 2GT if you wish to make a request.

How to complain

If you have any concerns about our use of your personal information, you can make a complaint to us using the contact details above.

You can also complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how we have used your data.

The ICO's address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113