

COVID-19 National Testing Programme

'How to Guide'

Primary Schools and Nurseries Asymptomatic
Testing for Detection





What?

Asymptomatic testing helps to identify and isolate people who show no signs of having COVID-19.

We are using antigen lateral flow device (LFD) tests, which are highly specific meaning that only a small proportion of people who do not have COVID-19 will receive a positive result.

Extensive clinical evaluation from Public Health England and the University of Oxford shows that LFD tests are appropriate for large-scale population testing, including for asymptomatic people.



How?

Using at home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits, which do not require laboratory processing and produce a quick result in about 30 minutes.

If the result is positive, a confirmatory PCR test is required as well as self-isolation following current public health advice.

If the result is negative, national and local rules and guidelines must be followed including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing face coverings, where required.



Why?

The ultimate aim of testing is to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19. As many as one in three people with COVID-19 show no signs of having it, that is they are "asymptomatic". Testing regularly helps stop the virus spreading.



When?

Testing should take place twice a week, every three - four days, ideally in the morning. This was introduced week commencing 25 January 2021.



Who?

The Department for Education expects all staff working on site in primary schools, schools-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools to be offered LFD home testing kits. Testing is on a voluntary basis. Private, voluntary and independent nurseries and child minders can be tested through community testing programmes where available.



For more information

Please visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus for more information about COVID-19.