

FAQ Sheet - Rapid Testing in Schools

What is mass testing?

All students and staff who have given consent will have a lateral flow test. Students will have two tests 3-5 days apart. Staff will only have one during the mass testing period.

What is weekly testing?

After mass testing is complete, consenting staff will then have a weekly test. Students will not.

What is daily contact testing?

If consenting students and staff have come into the close contact of someone on the school site that has tested positive, they can be tested each morning before the school day for the next 7 days. A daily negative test will mean that they can attend school on each of these days.

Who will swab my child?

As part of the whole school risk assessment, it has been identified that all parent/carers will swab their own child – there will be a test assistant on hand to offer verbal support and guidance. There is additional visual support and other guidance on the school website.

Where is the testing taking place?

It is taking place in the large school meeting room that many parents/carers will have had annual reviews in - it has been refurbished to meet the needs of the testing requirements. Parent/carers and students will be asked to wait outside the fire exit near this meeting room. The test site will not be entered via the school reception. You will need to telephone the school reception on 01724 842960 when you come on the school site so your child can be safely brought to you, but please do not enter the reception.

Can I choose when my child gets tested?

The testing schedule will be dictated by the needs of the whole school - where we can we will consider any requests but cannot promise that these requests can be met. You will receive a text the day before with your appointment time.

Will my child be tested weekly?

Your child will be tested twice initially over the course of a 3 to 5 day period. Current guidance dictates that your child will only then be tested as part of daily contact testing.

Can my child attend school if they do not have a test?

If they do not take part in the initial mass testing then yes. If consent is not given for daily contact testing to take place in the case of a close contact of someone on the school site that has tested positive, your child will have to isolate for 10 days before returning to school.

Will I be informed of a negative result?

You will be informed of a result if your child tests positive or negative during mass testing. During the daily contact testing process, you will also be informed of a negative or a positive result. In both cases, this will come in the form of a phone call to your mobile phone after approximately 30 minutes. We ask that you wait in your car with your child or very close to school during this period if you have come on foot. To decrease the risk of unnecessary interactions we will not be providing a holding zone.