



Dear Parent / Carer,

Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) has been temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, students who have tested **and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.**

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR **unless** they:

- have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Students are strongly encouraged to test twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to their setting. Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow self-isolation guidance.

Information on the new arrangements can be found in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Please can we remind parents, of the importance of reporting all tests results (positive, negative and void) to NHS Test and Trace and their setting. Tests can be reported online through the [report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#) page which should only take a couple of minutes.

It is important to continue with **twice weekly home LFD testing** and reporting.

We are awaiting a new batch of tests, however if you do not have any or due to run you can order using the following methods.

How to get rapid tests Picking up tests from a pharmacy is the quickest way to get a rapid test for most people.

If you give the pharmacy a 'collect code' when you pick up the tests, it helps the NHS match your details to the tests. [Find out about collect codes and how to get a collect code on GOV.UK](#)

[Find a pharmacy near you where you can collect rapid tests](#)



Order tests to do at home:

Only order online if you cannot get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits on GOV.UK](#)

Pick up tests from a community collection point.

You can get up to 2 packs of 7 rapid tests from some community places, like libraries. [Find your local council on GOV.UK](#) to find the location of these places and other walk-in and pop-up collection points.

[Find a community collection point near you](#)

Go to a test site.

You can get tested at a rapid lateral flow test site.

If you go to a test site:

- you may need an appointment, so check before you go
- a trained helper might be able to help you do the test
- you'll get a text or email with the result when it's ready

[Find where to get a rapid lateral flow test](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

With kind regards,

Tim Farrer
Headteacher