



Knox Academy

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Extension of the COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme to include S1 – S3 pupils

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to follow up on the letter I sent out yesterday and to let you know about the Schools Asymptomatic Testing Programme, which has been put in place as part of the package of COVID-19 risk reduction mitigations in schools across Scotland, and to give you more information about how the programme will operate in East Lothian Schools.

Some of you may know that this programme has been in place for a few weeks now for S4/5/6 pupils, many of whom have been in school for practical subject support which cannot be done by home learning.

I am pleased to let you know that this programme is now being extended to cover all S1 – S6 pupils and I am requesting that, as a parent/guardian of an S1/2/3 pupil who is now eligible for testing, you discuss the contents of this letter with your young person. A Privacy Notice and other supporting information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LFDTestInfo>.

Why is our school participating in the programme?

Along with the other protective measures we are implementing to keep our school safe, regular testing of staff and pupils will help to further reduce risks for everyone in our school.

It will do so by helping to identify people who are unaware they have been infected with Covid-19 as they have with no symptoms, and asking them and their close contacts to self-isolate, thus minimising the likelihood of them passing on the virus to others.

Who can take part?



The regular testing is open to all School staff and Secondary School (S1 - 6) pupils who are regularly attending the school premises. The testing programme also includes school-aged childcare staff and early learning and childcare staff in settings that are attached to schools.

Does everyone have to take part?

Testing is voluntary. No-one who is otherwise permitted to come to school will be prevented from doing so just because they do not wish to participate. However, we are strongly encouraging all school staff and secondary pupils who are attending school to participate wherever possible, in order to contribute to the wellbeing of our school community.

However, if staff or pupils are working or learning from home, they should not participate. This is because the programme is intended specifically to reduce risks in the school environment.

What will the testing involve?

Our school is being provided with a supply of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits by the Scottish Government and the UK Department of Health and Social Care for use at home. We will give each participant a supply of these test kits to take home, together with the 'Instructions for Use'. Each participant will have their collection of test kits logged and completion of this test kit log is a regulatory requirement.

We will then ask individuals to test regularly at home, twice a week (every three to four days, ideally in the morning before school).

The tests supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on conducting self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which will be provided with the test kit. There is a useful video showing participants how to administer the test here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>.

Once the test has been conducted individuals must log the test result – whether positive, negative or void – online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the school.

NB: It is important to note that this regular testing is only for individuals without symptoms. Those with symptoms must continue to follow the usual guidance. They must self-isolate and book a PCR test at a test centre or via a home test kit at the earliest opportunity. People with symptoms must not rely on a negative LFD result to continue to attend school.

NB: A negative test result must not be taken as leave to relax or ignore physical distancing or other measures intended to reduce transmission – testing is an additional intervention that contributes to reducing risk.

What happens next?



SILVER - RIGHTS AWARE



- w/c 15th March
 - During a timetabled lesson all S1 – S3 pupils will be given an explanation of the programme, and have an opportunity to discuss their questions with their class and teacher.
 - Parent/carers are asked to discuss the programme with their young person and complete the online consent form if the young person decides they wish to participate
 - w/c 22nd March
 - We will issue LFD test kits (pack of 3) to each young person for whom we have received e-consent for them to take home.
 - w/c 29th March
 - Participating pupil are asked to use the 1st of their 3 kits to test before coming into school.
- After Easter – Pupils are asked to test before coming into school using their two remaining test, and we will then begin the process of reissuing further kits

How do I consent?

- Those aged 16 or over must complete their own e-consent form.
- For parents/carers/guardians of under 16s:
 - You should ensure you have discussed the testing with your child and that they are happy to participate, before completing the e-consent form on their behalf.
 - *If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so.*

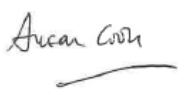
You can complete the e-consent form here: <https://forms.gle/FfPdVzbtJ6z8HDTG8>

We will continue to support and communicate as we implement this programme.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

In the meantime, some simple Frequently Asked Questions can be found below, and more extensive FAQ's can be found here: <https://www.tinyurl.co/LFDTestInfo>

Kind regards



Sue Cook

Annex – Frequently Asked Questions

How will my child know how to use the tests?

The school will provide those participating with the Instructions for Use (IFU) along with their test kits. Participants will be asked to ensure they use these, and not the ones that are pre-packaged in the test kits.

The Instructions for Use set out clearly how to use the test kits, or how to support someone to do so. They also provide a number to call if there are any problems with the test kits.

The Instruction for Use can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LFDTestInfo>

Are the tests safe and accurate?

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the use of these at-home tests for these purposes.

LFD tests are very accurate, which means that only a very small proportion of people who do not have coronavirus will receive a positive result (false positive). The tests are better at picking up true positive cases when a person has a higher viral load and is more contagious. There is a risk of returning a false negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health Scotland recommend two LFD tests 3 to 4 days apart, or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If someone tests positive using an LFD, it is likely that they are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a 'Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)' test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the LFD, we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further.

What happens if there is a problem with the tests?

Any incidents that could potentially impact the quality or safety of testing should be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

For incidents occurring in a home setting, please report any issues (for example: something damaged, or missing or difficult to use in the kit, you are unable to log a result) to **0300 303 2713**.

If there is a clinical incident which led to, or has the potential for, harm (e.g. swab breaks in the mouth, bleeding, allergic reaction on using the kit etc.) please report it on <https://coronavirusyellowcard.mhra.gov.uk>.

This is not for seeking immediate medical care. Medical care should be sought through the usual route of contacting 111 or 999.

What happens if my child tests positive?

If your child receives a positive result on your Lateral Flow Device at home

1. Contact the school
2. email covidinschools@eastlothian.gov.uk to let us know about the positive test result
3. Report the result online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result, self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test. This can be done via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. We advise visiting a community or drive-through test site as this is the quickest way to get tested, or you can order a home test kit.
4. It is important that your child begins self-isolation immediately after they receive the positive result from the LFD test, and does not wait until the result of their PCR test.

What happens if my child tests negative?

They must report the result online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Individuals who test negative will be able to stay in schools and resume their activities as normal.

What happens if the test result is "void"?

This means the test has not run correctly. Your child must report the result online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. They will need to take another test. Use a new test kit, and do not reuse anything from the first kit.

What if my child has been in close contact with someone who tests positive?

If a pupil has tested positive, they will have to self-isolate as per government guidelines. Please inform the school of their absence, and to report a positive case to support contact tracing activities.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people 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 test by calling

0800 028 2816 or visiting <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>. People with symptoms must not rely on a negative LFD result to continue to attend school.

Can a pupil's families get tested too?

This programme is aimed at staff and secondary pupils only. The tests will be handed to these participants and should not be used for anyone else. Family members should NOT use these kits and they must not be shared with anyone.

East Lothian Council have other options for Community Testing for people with no symptoms which is not through schools. Information can be found on www.eastlothian.gov.uk

Can people who have opted out, join the testing programme at any point?

Yes. You would need to read the documentation here: <https://tinyurl.com/LFDTestInfo>,

Complete the consent form here: <https://forms.gle/FfPdVzbtJ6z8HDTG8>

Then arrange to collect kits from school.

Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for coronavirus?

No. If individuals have recently (within 90 days) tested positive for coronavirus, they should not take part in the regular testing. They must complete their period of self-isolation before returning to school or nursery.

How do you dispose of test kits?

Once their test is complete, staff/pupils should put all of the used test contents in the small waste bag provided. They should seal the bag and put the bag in their bin at home – it is classified as general household waste.