



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher and CEO of NEMAT: Rob James



15 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

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 by 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 schools safer for everyone.

Testing students at home

Students will be able to collect home test kits from Tuesday 16 March 2021, depending on their year group and completion of 3 lateral flow tests carried out in school.

We would like them to take their tests either before school on Monday or Thursday or the evening before on a Sunday and a Wednesday.

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive two packs of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

Students are asked to ensure they 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 if needed. You need to report test results.

Taking the test

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

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).

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

What should you do after the LFD test?

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

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).

“Working together, achieving together”

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, Notley Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1WY

☎ 01376 556300 ☎ 01376 550991 ✉ enquiries@notleyhigh.com 🌐 www.notleyhigh.com

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

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

You will need to inform the school of the result of each of your son's/daughter's tests.

We will soon receive a link from TestRegister.co.uk for you to report your results. These will be sent to the one email address provided on the consent form.

The result of each test also needs to be reported to the NHS Test & Trace self-report website. Once the result has been reported to the school, by clicking on step 2 it will take you directly to the NHS Test & Trace platform, to record the result.

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.

We are strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your son/daughter and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Please contact Mrs Andrews, COVID Co-ordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing via enquiries@notleyhigh.com

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr R James
Executive Headteacher/CEO NEMAT

Dr C Cusick
Head of School

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Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents/carers 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.

Can my son/daughter 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 Device tests 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.

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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 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 in 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 son/daughter has a positive result?

If your son/daughter 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 the 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 son/daughter has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your son/daughter 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 son/daughter 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 son/daughter should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

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Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFD tests 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](#).

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 \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](http://COVID Test Finder (test-and-trace.nhs.uk))

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 son/daughter takes a LFD 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 son/daughter.

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

- your son's/daughter's name;
- your son's/daughter's test result;
- the reference number on the test kit.

You will also need to inform the school of their test result.

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

The school 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, the DHSC will use our information to contact anyone 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 the 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 son/daughter needs to self-isolate. They might also use your son's/daughter's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve the understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing, please see the detailed NEMAT COVID 19 Testing Privacy Statement <https://notleyhigh.com/letters-home-archive/item/covid-19-testing-privacy-statement>

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