

Lateral Flow Testing Technical Guide and Arrangements

This guide is designed to provide you with the outline arrangements for students undertaking the self-administered Covid-19 lateral flow test. We have included the dates of the first tests for each year group, as well as the return to in-school lessons dates. We also felt it would be helpful to provide a number of possible questions with answers that you may have.

We are very aware that while many students have already experienced a test, some students will be nervous about self-administering a test and may have a number of misconceptions. Please be confident and reassured that we have already supported a significant number of students to complete tests. It is important that a large number of students are tested. All students who have consent information will have 3 tests on the school site prior to them being issued with a home test kit.

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Return to school arrangements by year group

When will each year group be invited for a test and then return to school?

Year Group	Day and Date - First Test	Date of full return to School	Anticipated date of Home test kit provided
Year 7	Monday 15th March	Tuesday 16th March	Monday 22nd March
Year 8	Tuesday 16th March	Wednesday 17th March	Monday 22nd March
Year 9	Wednesday 10th March	Thursday 11th March	18th and 19th March
Year 10	Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 10th March	Wednesday 17th March
Year 11	Monday 8th March	Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 17th March
Year 12	Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 10th March	Tuesday 16th March
Year 13	Friday 5th March	Tuesday 9th March	Thursday 11th March

Arrangements for testing

Where do students go on the date of their first test?

Students will access the site via the gate opposite the Olympic Hall. They will be met by pastoral staff and directed to the marquee outside the gym. Students will register in the gym and the test centre is in the main hall. Students will be supported with further guidance in an information video next week.

What happens after the students have completed their first test?

Students return home and continue with their published remote learning programme. Teachers will not be delivering ‘live’ lessons for year groups on the date of their first test as students will be accessing

their tests at different points in the day. Students will still be set high quality remote learning work by their teachers on their test day via Firefly.

When will students be told when their appointment time is?

We will be issuing appointment times by Wednesday 3rd March. Students will be invited into school in form groups to complete their test. Siblings being tested on the same day at different times can be seen at the same time – please email tyarwood@wilmslowhigh.com to submit a request.

How long will students be on site for?

We anticipate that students will be on site for between 30 and 45 minutes.

Can parents / carers remain on site?

Unfortunately, there will be not be any parking available on site and parents / carers will not be able to enter the school site. Please be aware of local parking restrictions.

Why can we not start to test at home and stop using Asymptomatic Test Sites?

It is important that students are supervised whilst swabbing for their first test to make sure they are administering the test correctly; this is why testing will initially take place at school. As a result, in line with national guidance we are offering students three tests on-site, three to five days apart, upon their return. Completing three tests at school is a condition of being able to transition students to a testing at home scenario.

The testing process

Who should be tested?

All staff and pupils of secondary age and above (11+), without symptoms, will be offered a regular test.

How many tests are you planning to complete each day?

Our testing facility will be able to process approximately 600 tests per day.

What does a testing bay look like?

Test bays are partitioned areas in the main hall which have been set up to maximize social distance. The staff operating in the bays will be wearing appropriate PPE when supporting students to complete their test.

Will other students be able to see each other being tested?

We have purchased additional privacy screens to ensure that all participants feel as comfortable and confident as possible. There will only be a small number of students completing the tests in the test venue at one time.

Will an adult administer the test for my child?

No. These are self-administered tests. In an Asymptomatic Testing Site, all students who are aged 11 years and over are encouraged to swab themselves.

When testing at home, students aged 18 years and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed. Students aged 12-17 years should self-test and report with adult supervision. The

adult may conduct the test if necessary. Students aged 11-12 years (who attend a secondary school) should be tested/swabbed by an adult.

When will tests be completed at home (transition to test at home)?

Once students have been tested three times at school, they will be provided with home test kits for regular twice weekly testing at home.

What happens if a student does not receive a result?

The results service is managed by the NHS track and trace service. There have been occasions where results have not been passed to the contact details supplied. If this occurs, please contact our medical needs team as we maintain a register of results in school and will happily confirm any results. The contact email is medicalneeds@wilmslowhigh.com

Can students travel to school on a bike and leave it on site?

Yes, students can lock their bikes on the normal racks in school. Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school, but not as part of a group. Students will need to wear a face covering if travelling on public transport and when entering the school site.

What does the Test site look like?

How many staff will be required to operate the test centre?

On a normal day of testing 36 staff will be needed to run the test centre.

Who are the staff supporting students?

All adults working in the test centre are either current Wilmslow High School staff or have been inducted into school systems and have completed a certified training programme. The pastoral team will be on-hand to support any students who feel anxious about the testing process.

How many tests have you already completed ?

We have already completed over 1000 tests on site.

Test results

When will I receive my child's test result?

The NHS test and trace system will send details of all test results to the contact details provided on the consent form. If this is a negative result, it will arrive at some point on the date of the test. There have been occasions where a result has not been sent to the contact number provided. We will keep a register in school of all results so if this is the case, we will be able to confirm this if you contact our medical needs team medicalneeds@wilmslowhigh.com.

What happens if a student receives a positive test result?

Our medical needs coordinators will inform parents / carers immediately of a positive test result. Students will be sensitively informed, reassured and arrangements made for their safe collection from school.

Will you need to contact trace students in the case of a positive test?

Yes we are still obliged to follow all the current test trace and isolate guidance.

What does a void test result mean?

If you receive a void test result it means it was not possible to say if your child had coronavirus when the test was done. Please contact medicalneeds@wilmslowhigh.com to arrange for your child to be retested.

Information about the testing process

Why will carry out asymptomatic testing?

We must use all of the tools available to us to combat the transmission of COVID-19. These tools range from vaccination, symptomatic testing, improving medicines, self-isolation regulations and non-pharmaceutical interventions like hands-face-space.

Asymptomatic testing is a further and critical tool to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

On its own, asymptomatic testing will not prevent the transmission of COVID-19 but used with the other tools available (to us) it will help us to:

- Identify and help to prevent staff and students without symptoms from transmitting and spreading the virus unknowingly.
- Allow schools to operate as safely as possible by self-isolating those that are the most contagious as soon as is practical.

Asymptomatic testing is done via simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They enable us to rapidly test students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. No test is 100% accurate, but the LFD, when done as part of a testing regime, is very good at picking up those with high viral loads (i.e. those that are thought to be the most contagious).

Do I have to accept a test invite?

Testing is voluntary and individuals will be allowed to attend school even if they decide not to take part in testing.

However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known.

Why is there a 3 – 5 day test repeat window?

Current guidance suggests that the optimum period between tests is 3-5 days.

Will school have enough LFD tests?

We have been assured that the automated resupply process will work efficiently.

Other Questions

Why are you testing only one group (Year 9) on Wednesday 10th March?

Most days we will be testing two year groups, however, the frequency of the repeat re-tests (between 3 and 5 days) means that in order to ensure that the first year groups tested receive their second test in that time frame, only one year group can be tested on the Wednesday.

How soon can students return to the classroom?

Students can return to face-to-face education the day after their first negative test result. Students not undergoing testing should attend school in line with the detailed phased return arrangements.

Why can students not start back in lessons on the date of their first test?

Students can only return to classrooms once they are in receipt of a negative test. Given the large numbers of students we will be required to test it will not be possible to keep them indoors at 2 metre social distance while they wait for their result. We feel strongly that having to close a year group bubble immediately due to close contact would be a negative experience for our students. All our decisions are based on delivering a safe and supportive testing environment and return to school for our students.

Why are you only testing Year 13 on Friday 5th March?

The latest government announcement stated that schools were now expected to offer all students 3 tests on their return within a specified timescale. After consulting with Cheshire East, we have decided to test our processes the week before the full testing programme begins. We have chosen Year 13 as it is one of our smaller year groups and is an examination year group. Monday 8th will see a larger number of students tested (Year 11) with an increase to two year groups on the Tuesday.

If my child is currently accessing the in-school provisions, can they continue to attend?

For the week beginning 8th March all in-school provisions will continue as planned. On Monday 15th March, the Year 7 provision will close as we will need to move a substantial amount of IT equipment from this resource back to normal teaching locations. The Year 8 provision will remain open. If these arrangements create any problems, please contact the relevant Head of House.