

Covid-19 Home Testing

Frequently Asked Questions

The government has recommended that after the initial three academy based tests, parents/carers should test secondary school aged children twice each week at home. Students will receive a home test kit from their tutor from Thursday 18th March. It is important that this is stored carefully and remains at room temperature.

Government data shows areas that carry out mass testing are able to monitor and suppress the spread of the Covid-19 virus more effectively. Whilst home testing is voluntary, we strongly encourage parents/carers to support this measure and ensure their child completes regular testing at home, in order to help us keep everyone in our academy and wider community safe.

What does home testing involve?

Home testing is very similar to the process students have undertaken in the academy recently. The student swabs themselves (throat & nasal swab lasting less than 30 seconds) and then places the swab into a small collection tube. Families are asked to record their result online or by phone.

The guidance states that secondary students aged 11 should have the test administered by an adult, and students aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves.

A step by step guide to Covid-19 testing at home can be found at;

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGj>

How often do students need to test at home?

Just like our staff, students will test at home on a regular basis (twice per week, 3 to 4 days apart) before they come into the academy. We advise the tests being taken on a Monday morning (or Sunday evening before bed) and a Thursday morning (or Wednesday evening before bed). Students will be asked to report to their Tutor if they've had a void test result (they should test again at home) or if they have opted out of testing.

Do I need to complete a consent form for my child to be tested at home?

Testing at home is voluntary and does not require parents/carers to complete a consent form. Instead the academy has sent you a copy of a privacy notice which means that by opening the test you are giving your consent. However, although voluntary, 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.

Once you understand the testing process and have read the privacy notice, if you choose to participate you are committing to self-administer the test and report your results via the NHS Test & Trace digital platform and to the academy (only if the test is positive or void).

People who decline to participate in this testing programme should follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and get tested if they show symptoms.

Why is the academy using lateral flow device tests instead of PCR tests?

The government provides all testing equipment for schools. The LFD tests produce results much quicker than PCR tests. With lateral flow tests, a result is available after 30 minutes rather than 1-2 days as is the case with PCR tests. The rapid turnaround has a significant impact on transmission reduction that might occur in the time gap.

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect asymptomatic Covid-19 cases. The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested. LFD tests are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The tests are highly specific, with low chances of false positives.

They are also very sensitive and able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. It is important to remember that these tests are an additional layer of health protection measure in addition to hand washing, face covering and social distancing.

What if I receive a positive LFD result at home?

If you receive a positive LFD result you should book a confirmatory PCR test. We would advise visiting a community or drive through test site as this is the quickest way to get tested. It is important that you self-isolate until you receive the result of your PCR test. Parents/carers should call the student absence line on 01202 606890 to keep us informed.

How do I report my child's test result?

Please use this link to report your child's result: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
Unfortunately education settings are not able to view the results that their staff and students have uploaded to the online service. Students should therefore communicate void test results with their tutor.

What should I do if something goes wrong with the test?

If there are any issues with the tests that could potentially impact the quality or safety of testing, students (or their parents/carers) are expected to report this. If there is a clinical incident which led or has potential for harm, participants are advised to report it on <https://coronavirussyellowcard.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.

For non-clinical incidents occurring at home, participants are advised to report any issues (something damaged, missing or difficult to use in the kit, unable to log result etc.) to 119 in England.

Students (or their parents/carers) must inform the academy by emailing office@magna-aspirations.org about any test related issues or ongoing problems, so that we can check if this is a wider issue across other users in addition to the steps above.