



Portland Spencer Academy

Working Together for Success

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3rd March 2021

Dear families,

RE: The option for you to access lateral flow testing

I hope you are all well and thank you once more for your ongoing support as we look forward to welcoming all children back into our schools. We would also like to reassure you that we continue to work to all of the guidance to ensure school is as safe as it can be.

As part of this you may have seen that the government has announced the further roll-out of lateral flow testing (LFT) for wider members of the school community and this includes:

- secondary school pupils
- primary and secondary school staff
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils
- households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary staff

It has also been confirmed that there is **no requirement** for primary school pupils to test at this time.

Our school staff have had access to this testing since it was made available and the process has been very straightforward, safe, easy to administer and has added to the level of safety in our schools.

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Below is some information about each option:

Get a test through your employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site](#)

Collect test kits

You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point](#)

Order home test kits online

This service will launch on 1 March and you can order via this link: [Schools testing: Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The full guidance on the roll out of testing to families of primary children and staff can be found using the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should **tell the school** and:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommended

As always, we are here to support you and thank you for all you continue to do, not just to support the education and wellbeing of all children but for keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Kind Regards

Kate Green

Executive Principal