

Staff and student testing – quick, safe, easy.

Staff and students will be tested using a validated Lateral Flow Device.

Up to **a third of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 have no symptoms** at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. That is why the testing of people without symptoms is vital. Identifying those individuals will save lives. This is what is known as '**mass testing**'.

Initially testing will be provided for **all secondary students and staff** as they return from the Christmas holidays. After this, **staff will be tested once a week** on an ongoing basis.

Students and staff will be tested if they come into contact with a positive case. This new approach, known as 'serial contact testing', will allow those who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school or college if they agree to be tested for 7 days* following last contact with a positive case.

Quick Swabbing and processing of these tests will be conducted at a dedicated testing site in the school or college with **results available in around 30 minutes**.

Safe These tests work. In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.8% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Test and Trace

When used in combination with other measures such as **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**, **washing hands regularly** and **social distancing**, these tests further reduce the risk of transmission. We must not relax any of these measures – this testing programme is in addition to them.

Easy Lateral flow devices **do not require a laboratory** to process the test. The devices are designed to be intuitive and require minimal training to operate.

* If staff or students cannot take a test (e.g. on the weekend) they should self-isolate for that day and resume serial contact testing on their return to school / college. If they return after the 7 days are finished, then they should take one final test, and if it is negative, they can return to school/college.