



16th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for all of your support as students have returned to the Academy, it has been amazing to see them all and have the Academy back to full capacity.

As you will be aware from my earlier letters all students for whom parental consent had been provided will have, during the course of this week, completed their 3 lateral flow tests at school. They are now familiar with the process and so will be transitioning to home testing at the end of this week.

On Thursday, all students will be supplied with home test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. They will be supplied with two packs of 3 tests and a full instruction leaflet. Students should build in 2 tests a week at home into their routines, allowing 30mins to take and process their test.

Students (or parents) must report their home test result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, this is quick and easy either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the test kit.

Should your child receive a positive test from home, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with the stay-at-home guidance. You will also need to arrange a PCR test through <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> to confirm the result. If the PCR test confirms a positive result the student will have to self-isolate for the full 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. As an Academy, we would also encourage you to share any positive results with us as soon as possible to help with contact tracing, please call the Academy if during the school day, or email [info@oasismayfield.org](mailto:info@oasismayfield.org) to alert us to any positive test results. Students with a negative result can continue to attend school as usual.

We strongly encourage all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible, keeping you and family safe.

Thank you again for your ongoing support to the Academy. If after reading everything you have any questions, please contact us at [info@oasismayfield.org](mailto:info@oasismayfield.org)

Yours sincerely,

Angela Hurd  
Vice Principal, Oasis Academy Mayfield

**Principal - Claire Taylor**

**Oasis Academy Mayfield**  
Ashley Crescent, Southampton, SO19 9NA

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## Some frequently asked questions

### Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do **not** give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. If you use the home test kit this is considered consent. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice

<https://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/covid>

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to NHS Test & Trace regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

### Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 12-16 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 Academy so we can replace the missing item.

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 Devices 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. 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.

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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 on 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 at 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 child has a positive result?

If your child 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 your school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home to confirm your positive case.

### What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child 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 child 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 child should take a PCR test.

### Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs 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](#).

### How do you report the result?

You report your test to the NHS using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result if it is positive. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

### Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, the tests supplied are only for the students of Oasis Academy Mayfield. However whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, are now able to test themselves twice every week from home.

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## How can I get a test for the rest of my household?

This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing if this is available to you at your place of work. 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](http://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 \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19-test-finder)

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](http://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 child takes a Lateral Flow 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 child.

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

- your child's name
- your child's test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

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

Schools and colleges 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, DHSC will use our information to contact people 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 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 child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

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