

LFD Home Testing: Frequently Asked Questions

After the training for students and webinars for parents, I have gather up FAQs that have been asked and they are below.

Why did we stop the saliva testing? I preferred that one!

So do we! Sadly, the programme directors have had to suspend it for a few weeks as there were issues with getting the test results out fast enough to make it effective. The tests themselves are reliable, but the speed of them needs to be improved. They need a few weeks to reset the process and then they hope to restart again.

Why are we doing testing of people with no symptoms?

Up to one in three people who have coronavirus (COVID-19) do not display any symptoms, but could still be contagious. Both the LFD testing, and the saliva testing when it restarts, will help find those people and reduce the spread of the virus.

Is this compulsory?

Testing is voluntary, and you will not be prevented from coming into school if you do not take part. However, the success of this public health measure depends on as many people participating as possible and we would strongly encourage you to do it.

Can children and young people swab themselves?

No children below the age of 11 should be tested. That's why these tests are not being done in primary schools. Secondary pupils aged 11 should have the test administered by an adult, and pupils and students aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves.

How often do we need to test? What days?

Staff and students will test at home on a regular basis (twice per week, 3 to 4 days apart) usually before they come in but can be done the evening before. It is better to find a time when it won't be rushed. Unlike the saliva testing, there are no set days you have to do the tests, it's about what works best for your family arrangements. We would advise having the same days each week just to help build routine. For example, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening each week may be sensible times.

Why are you not doing these at school?

Testing in school was being completed for two reasons. The first was to allow as many people as possible to be tested before they came back, and the other was to train pupils in these tests. For us, the first aim was met through the saliva testing and the second has been covered through the training to pupils on their return and the parent webinar.

How effective are these tests?

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.

I'm hearing about issues with false positives these tests causing families to have to self-isolate unnecessarily. Can I get a lab-based PCR test if it proves positive?

Yes, you must get a PCR test if your LFD test taken at home tests positive. You can book these here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. The recent news around worries with false positives for these tests was about the onsite LFD testing, not this home testing.

Do we still need to do hands, face, space if we're being tested as well?

Yes, these tests add an extra check, and do not replace all the adaptations we already have onsite.

Are staff in school getting test kits too?

Yes, everyone is getting these test kits who works or studies at St Anne's.

I'm worried I'll forget how to do the test. What should I do?

Don't worry! It is quite a lot to remember the first time of doing the tests. Everything you need to know can be found in the booklet that you are given at the same time as the test kit. An electronic version of the booklet can be found on our school website [here](#). You can also watch a YouTube video of how to do the tests [here](#).

Do I use these tests only if I get symptoms?

No, quite the opposite. These are asymptomatic tests. They are supposed to be used when you DON'T have symptoms. If you get symptoms, you need to self-isolate and get a PCR test using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Can I give a test to my sister/brother/uncle/mum/pet?

No! These tests are just for you. However, the good news is that, even if they don't have symptoms, everyone in your household (and any support or childcare bubbles attached to your household) can book a test by going [here](#), or pick up a test kit for themselves by going [here](#). If you can't go to the places these links mention, you can order test kits to be posted by going [here](#).

They are definitely ONLY for humans!

What do I do with the waste?

It can be thrown away in a normal bin.

What if I run out of kits?

We are organising a way for you to pick up more test kits in school and will tell pupils how to do that.

What if I get a void result?

You are expected to report it, and then do another test. If that is also void, report that too, and then book a PCR test by going here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

What do I need to bring in to school?

Nothing. Unlike the saliva testing, there is nothing to bring into school.

What if I have had COVID-19 already? Do I still need to do it?

We would advise that you re-start your testing once you are back in school after self-isolating.

What if I have been vaccinated? Do I still need to do it?

Yes, as although vaccines are brilliant, they are not 100% secure at stopping you from catching a virus, and you may still be able to pass it on, even if you do not have any symptoms.

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