



Wigston College

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19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now into the final stages of our “in school” testing programme. We would like to thank all involved in responding so swiftly to the setting up and running of the programme which has contributed to making our schools and community safer places. I would also like to thank all of the students involved whose behaviour and approach has been impeccable. We have now conducted over 5000 tests.

Students with consent have now conducted sufficient tests in school to be able to undertake testing at home. Therefore, in line with the government guidance we will now start to issue Lateral Flow Device (LFD) home testing kits to these students. If you have not consented to testing in school but still wish your child to be provided with a home testing kit, please contact us.

LFD testing is a fast and simple way to test people who **do not** have symptoms of COVID-19. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 you should book a PCR test.

Enough test kits for three weeks will be distributed to all students by Monday 22nd March. LFD kits are free of charge and come with a leaflet explaining how to take the test and how to report the results. A step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing can be found on YouTube, along with translated guidance on how to self-test if needed.

We are asking our students to test on a Sunday and a Wednesday each week and let us know of any positive results, including during the Easter holidays.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website:

[Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)

If the result of the self-test is unclear (void) then another test will need to be done. If a student has a positive test result you should contact the college and your child will need to stay home and self-isolate and undertake a PCR test at a testing centre which can be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result the student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR result is negative, it overrides the LFD home test and your child can return to school.

Taking part in testing continues to be voluntary and all students are able to attend college whether they take part in testing or not. However, it is really important that as a community we are aware of all positive cases of COVID-19 within family bubbles, and especially our students. Please can we reiterate the need for parents/carers to contact us should your child receive a positive result, regardless of the circumstances. This will help us ensure you receive the correct information and we can take the appropriate measures to protect our community as a whole.

We have attached a “frequently asked questions” document to this letter with links to help answer some of the questions or queries that you might have. However, should you need any additional advice or support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Wilson'.

Mr M Wilson
Headteacher
Wigston Academy
Wigston College

HOME TESTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Government Information)

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.

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.

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When students take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the student. They will need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

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

They will also need to tell the school or college their test result if it is positive. Under UK law, a child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.

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.

When someone reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC. DHSC may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person's name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

What if a child cannot tolerate a swab down their throat, perhaps due to their disability?

A child or young person may find it difficult to take a throat swab due, for example, to their having difficulty in understanding instructions, needing to keep their mouth open during the period of swabbing or they are having a strong gag reflex. In such cases, where a combined nose and throat swab is not possible, a nose swab from both nostrils can be taken. Similarly, if a nasal swab is not feasible, a throat swab alone will suffice.

[Help and support is available](#) for students, parents and carers, including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.