

North London Grammar School COVID-19 Lateral flow testing risk assessment

Description:	Covid-19 Lateral flow testing risk assessment	Assessment reviewed by: Gokhan Ibis, Business Manager
Date of assessment:	1 st March 2021	
<p>This is a the school's generic Risk Assessment for Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing in our school during the current Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>For every group, testing is voluntary, but those who are eligible for tests are strongly encouraged to participate to reduce the risk of transmission within schools and colleges. In line with routine infection control practice, close contacts who decide not to be tested daily will need to self-isolate in line with the Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.</p> <p>All secondary school and college age pupils are eligible for twice weekly testing on their return to school. This is how it works.</p> <p>Who will get tested?</p> <p>Tests will be available to pupils, students and staff at secondary schools and colleges – so pupils in year 7 and above. Their households and bubbles will also be able to get tested.</p> <p>How will the tests be administered and how often?</p> <p>This depends on whether you're a pupil, a member of a pupil's family or a teacher or member of school staff.</p> <p>Pupils, teachers and their families should all be tested twice each week.</p> <p>For pupils, the first three tests will be done on site at schools and colleges under supervision. These will be lateral flow tests which provide a result in approximately 30 minutes. After that, pupils will be given lateral flow device (LFD) testing kits by their school or college to take home.</p> <p>What happens if a test is positive?</p> <p>If anyone's test is positive, they should immediately start isolating in line with public health guidance. Members of their household should also start isolating.</p> <p>Where a pupil's test has been taken on site under supervision, there is no need for a further test to confirm the result as there is a lower chance of the test being administered incorrectly. The best available evidence on LFD tests delivered at home and in testing sites over recent weeks suggests that the risk of false positives is extremely low – less than one in a thousand.</p> <p>This means that only a very small proportion of all tests are likely to be a false positive. This analysis supports the policy of not requiring confirmation of positive LFD tests conducted at asymptomatic testing sites, given the current prevalence of COVID in the population.</p> <p>All pupils, staff, and their households who take their tests at home should report the results by calling 119 or through the online form.</p> <p>Because tests taken at home are unsupervised, if a pupil, member of staff or a member of their household gets a positive result at home they should report the result and arrange to have a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test by following this link.</p>		

In the event that the PCR test is negative – that they do not have Covid 19 – this **overrides the lateral flow test** if it was taken at home and they should therefore return to school.

Robust evaluations from Public Health England and the University of Oxford show lateral flow tests have extremely low rates of false positives. LFD tests taken on test sites, such as on school and college grounds, do not need a PCR confirmation. This is because these tests are done in a supervised environment.

If a pupil tests positive, does their whole class or year group or other bubble then have to isolate as well?

No. It's only people who live in the same household as someone with symptoms or who has tested positive or close contacts of people who have tested positive or have symptoms.

Close contacts are:

- People who have had face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre
- People who have been within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- Sexual contacts
- People who have been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
- Travelled in the same vehicle or a plane.

Task / Activity	Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	Is the team carrying out this Task/Activity (COVID-19 only)	Existing control measures	Recommended control measures
Initial Preparations	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	All persons involved in named activity. Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, breathing difficulties. Severe cases acute respiratory syndrome, even death	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Premises Covid-19 Risk Assessment formulated and actioned alongside the school's planning framework • All NHS/DfE and Local Authority guidance followed by the school • Anyone showing symptoms of, coronavirus (COVID-19) (a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell - anosmia), or have someone in their household who is, not allowed in school • Staff and families with COVID-19 symptoms to follow government guidance and self-isolate at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication of the testing approach to all testing staff • NHS and DfE guidance adhered to all relevant staff to take the NHS online training and onsite run through on the first day of testing • Storage space for testing kits will be determined • Testing area and workflow planned out • Checks made to ensure there is sufficient and appropriate PPE for staff

Preparation of Testing Area	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	All persons involved in named activity. Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, breathing difficulties. Severe cases acute respiratory syndrome, even death.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing Site Identified. • Consent forms prepared to gain formal consent for testing and sharing results • Staff and pupil testing schedule planned • Protocols for cleaning the testing area between tests and following PPE contamination identified 	<p>The following will be adhered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test site flooring must be non-porous • Test site must be well lit and have good airflow • Registration desk at the first point where test subject would enter the Test site • One-way direction of travel for test subjects. If not possible, enough room should be provided for test subjects to exit room whilst maintaining social distance • Test subject chair in the swabbing bay should be minimum of 2m apart • Each swabbing desk must have a processing desk close by –no more than 1m away. Recording desk to be located close by. • Test subjects must not enter area processing area. This should be demarcated. • Clear division between swabbing and processing area. This should be demarcated. Test subjects must not enter the processing area • All other key considerations include social distancing, disability access, and fire safety regulations will continue to be followed • The NHS Covid-19 National Testing Programme-Schools and Colleges Handbook will be used as guidance and strictly adhered to.
Training	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	All persons involved in named activity. Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, breathing difficulties. Severe cases acute respiratory syndrome, even death.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing staff identified and trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff who will conduct LFD testing will complete the online NHS Test and Trace training • All testing staff will have access to the training portal. All staff members are required to watch the training videos and complete the online assessment. An onsite run through to be carried out on the first day of testing
Testing	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	All persons involved in named activity. Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, breathing difficulties. Severe cases acute respiratory syndrome, even death.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing staff identified and trained, and appropriate PPE provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures set for invalid LFD tests and any staff or pupils who cannot or refuse to test will be agreed • Any devices used for registration will be kept clean between each use and contamination IPC measures will be carefully followed.

Test Analyse	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	All persons involved in named activity. Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, breathing difficulties. Severe cases acute respiratory syndrome, even death.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lateral flow test needs to be conducted at the start of each school day for 7 days to remain in school • Staff and pupils who do not wish to be tested daily or are unable to be tested for any reason, must self-isolate in accordance with national guidance until 10 days after the person they are a contact of tested positive or if they have Covid-19 symptoms 	<p>Negative Lateral Flow Test Result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with your normal activities until your next test is due. <p>Positive Lateral Flow Test Result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the national guidance, and take a confirmatory PCR test, self-isolate until the result of the PCR test is available. • If the PCR test is positive Complete 10 days self-isolation. All other identified close contacts and household members of this positive case will now also follow the national guidance. • If the PCR test is negative Continue with your normal activities until your next test is due.
PPE Requirements	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	All persons involved in named activity. Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, breathing difficulties. Severe cases acute respiratory syndrome, even death.		<p>All testing staff to wear appropriate PPE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disposable gloves • disposable plastic apron • surgical, fluid resistant face mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE will be supplied to schools alongside the testing kits.
Storage	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	All persons involved in named activity. Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, breathing difficulties. Severe cases acute respiratory syndrome, even death.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure Storage Facilities Identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kits will be stored at room temperature: • Store extraction solution at 2-30°C • Store the test cartridge at 2-30° C

Additional links and guidance:

[guidance on PPE](#) (GOV.UK). Additional guidance on [Disposal of PPE- see Gov guidance \(cleaning\)](#)

[Personal hygiene- hand washing etc before and afterwards-](#)

Expiry dates of PPE and checking these <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

Resources available for schools to talk to young people about COVID and mass testing at www.storicise.com