

## **Please also see the accompanying leaflet:**

### **What is a Lateral Flow Test?**

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. Lateral flow testing involves 2 tests 3-5 days apart that use a nose/throat swab and returns a result within 30 minutes. Anyone showing symptoms or testing positive will still be required to contact NHS 119 and take the original PCR test.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Staff will supervise the testing process and be on hand to support if required.

Results are available within approximately 30 minutes of testing. We will ONLY inform you and your child if the test is positive. If we do not contact you, then a negative result has been returned.

You may also find the links below useful:

[How to do your Lateral Flow Test Leaflet for Students, Staff & Parents](#)

### **How reliable are the tests?**

**All of our current protective measures will continue to remain in place** alongside these tests as results are not completely 100% and some people may choose not to take the test. However, the tests will increase safety, provide some reassurance and allow earlier identification of infection.

**The tests are voluntary, but everyone is encouraged to take them.**

In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, these tests were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% 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.

### **Why is testing important for students and staff?**

Lateral flow testing offers an additional protection measure to reduce the risk of transmission by helping to identify asymptomatic students and staff so that they and their close-contacts can self-isolate.

### **What if a student tests positive?**

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually, reassured and then isolated to await collection. Parents/Carers will be notified straightaway and will be required to arrange immediate collection of their child. Public transport and car shares should not be used.

Students/staff receiving a positive test will need to self-isolate in accordance with government guidance and as a government approved testing centre students/staff receiving a positive test will not require a PCR test. However, the test has been conducted at home, students/staff will need to arrange a confirmatory PCR test <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call NHS 119.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

They will be able to stay in college and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

Close contacts of a positive LFD test will be required to self-isolate in accordance with government guidance. We have robust track and trace systems in place to identify close contacts quickly and effectively. As soon as we are notified of a positive case, we will liaise closely with Cornwall Public Health Team and Public Health England to contain the case. We will immediately contact all parents/carers of identified close-contacts with further information, advice and guidance. *Parents/carers will be required to arrange immediate collection of their child. Public transport and car shares should not be used.*

### What if my child develops symptoms?

**This testing programme at college is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.**

### How do I give consent?

If having read the information in this document and the accompanying leaflet, you are happy for your child to be tested, **please complete a consent form by clicking [here](#)**. Testing is completely **free of charge**.

### Why are we testing students in school first?

It's important that students feel comfortable and confident for their first experiences of testing and so students will be tested in school first and then steadily transition to home testing once the experience is a more familiar one.

Moreover, it's important that initially students are supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. The college will be offering students three tests, three to five days apart, upon their return with a view to then transitioning to home testing.

*If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual.*

### Why is home testing important for students?

Regular testing will help break chains of transmission

Students will need to:

- Carry out twice weekly testing at home (three - four days apart) before coming into college in the morning.
- Maintain 'hands-face-space'

**IMPORTANT:** Tests are only for the use of the person assigned the kits, they should not be taken by anyone else. Parents will be provided with further information as and when the home test kits are distributed to students.

*Asymptomatic testing programme does not replace current guidance for those with symptoms or those identified as a close contact of a positive case. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known. Testing also does not replace basic preventative measures such as regular handwashing, PPE and social distancing.*