

The Calder Learning Trust

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Headteacher: Mr A Guise

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Dear all

Home Testing for Students

19th March

I hope you are safe and well and can I thank you all for your support in terms of returning to school. Tomorrow is the last day of in-school testing and I can't tell you how relieved I am that element of the Department for Education (DfE) operational guidance is now complete! Students have done a brilliant job taking the in-school testing in their collective stride and I count us as very fortunate in having identified so few positive asymptomatic cases in Calder High.

Under the DfE Schools coronavirus operational guidance,
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

'once students have been tested 3 times in school, they will be provided with home test kits for regular testing.'

Students who have already been given consent for asymptomatic testing and taken 3 tests in school, will receive 2 home testing kits on Friday during their form period. If you had not given consent for in-school testing but would like to test your child at home, please email with your child's details to covid@calderlearningtrust.com and we can include you in the testing programme and issue you with your kits. Each home testing kit contains 3 tests and details of how to register and report the test results with NHS Test and Trace.

Students are required to test twice-weekly, the tests should be completed on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. We ask that you save one test to be completed on Sunday 18th April before the return to school following the Easter break.

Who should conduct the test?

Students aged 12-17 should do the test and report the result 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. We envisage that most students will feel more comfortable taking the test in their own home with the support of their parents or a trusted adult.

Reporting the Result

Test results (whether positive, negative or void) need to be reported to:

NHS Test & Trace website via the self-report website

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Positive results need to be reported to the school by email to covid@calderlearningtrust.com and we will send you a link to our in-school track and trace form.

LFD home tests should not be used if you have symptoms of Coronavirus. You should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test via a testing site and follow national guidelines.

Why take part?

We are strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow us to reduce the spread of the virus and break the chain of transmission. However, we will keep a small on-site testing provision for those students who cannot test at home.

Taking part in testing is voluntary and students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

Thank you again for your on-going support as we all do our best to keep transmission rates low enough for lockdown restrictions to be lifted before the end of the school year (written with my fingers crossed and breath baited!).

Good luck with home testing, take care, be kind to yourselves and stay safe.

Anthony Guise



Headteacher
The Calder Learning Trust

COVID-19 Home Testing FAQs

What should you do after the test?

If the result of the test is unclear (void) you will need to do another test.

Negative and void results should be reported to NHS Test & Trace.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are 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.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus, you should follow the national guidelines on self-isolation and testing.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written medical consent to take part in the home testing programme.

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 school.

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>

If anyone tests positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You should report your result to both <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and school by email to covid@calderlearningtrust.com

You should then book a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at School/college).

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 - they give rapid results within 30 minutes

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 administer the test.

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

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- Rapid testing at work, through workplace testing. 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 <https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site> or <https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-guidance/community-coronavirus-testing-calderdale>

- Collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

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 <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Do I need to carry out an LFD test in the holidays?

No. You do not need to test in the school holidays. You will need to carry out a test the evening prior to returning to school (Sunday 18th April).