

	Guidance on the Implementation of Lateral Flow for <u>Post-Primary School Leaders</u> in Northern Ireland 22nd March 2021	
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This document replaces the document dated 19th March

1. Introduction

Rapid testing in schools has been identified as an appropriate non-clinical intervention (NCI) for use in schools to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid19. This project will direct the introduction of rapid testing for Post-Primary Schools in Northern Ireland.

Special Schools are not included in this programme as they participate in a parallel programme of LAMP testing which is managed through a separate project management structure.

The initiative is being led by the Public Health Agency working in partnership with the Education Authority. The programme is jointly sponsored by the Department of Health (NI) and the Department of Education (NI) and is linked to a national programme facilitated by the Department of Health and Social Care.

The programme will involve offering twice weekly Lateral Flow Detection testing to pupils in Years 12,13 and 14 and all staff in post-primary schools and EOTAS units. The programme will be introduced for staff in pre-school, nursery and primary schools in April 2021.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing¹ is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

2. Who will be offered Lateral Flow tests in Post-Primary Schools?

The first phase of the test programme will include all pupils and staff working in Post-Primary Schools. This means tests can be offered to:

- Pupils in Years 12, 13 and 14
- Teaching Staff
- Classroom Assistants
- Office and Administrative Staff
- Cleaning and Catering Staff
- Other staff based in our Post-Primary Schools

All students and staff members will be offered one pack of seven tests every three weeks.

It is up to individuals to volunteer to be part of this programme, it is not compulsory to participate as a pupil or staff member.

3. Overview of the Testing Process (Participant Pathway)

Participants in the programme will follow a testing pathway which is illustrated below.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

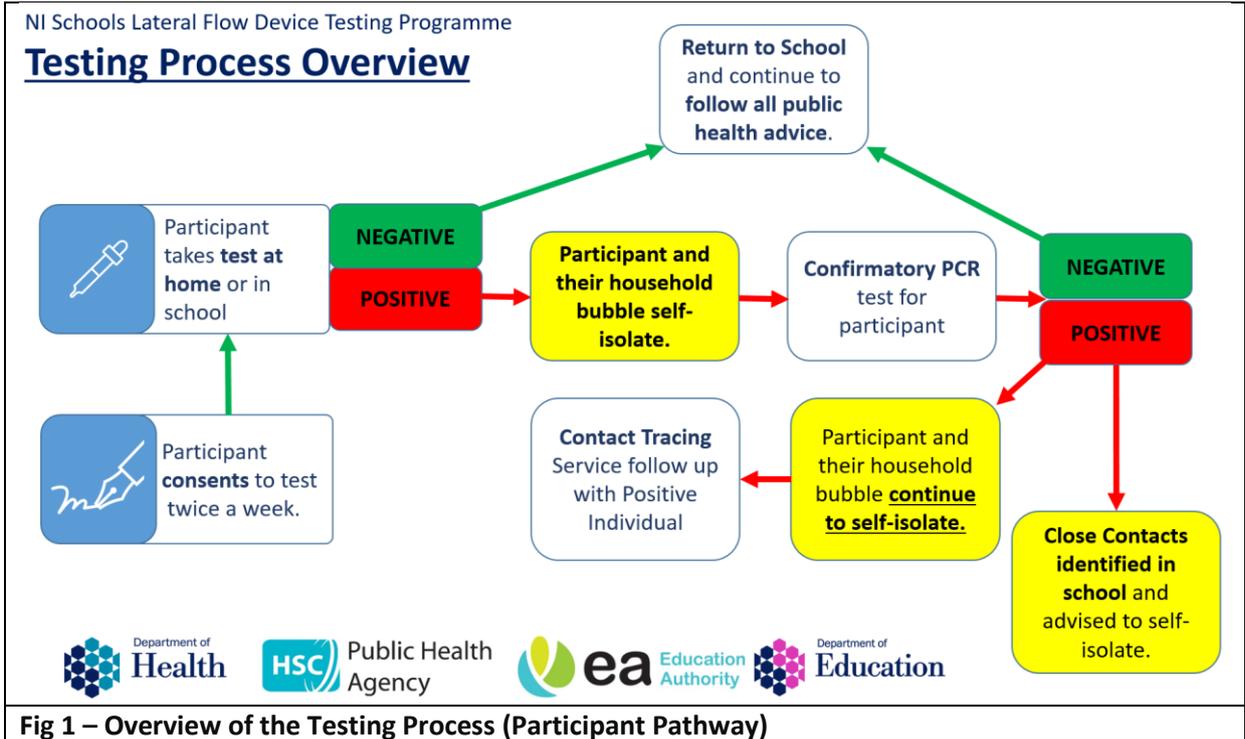


Fig 1 – Overview of the Testing Process (Participant Pathway)

Participants will begin by consenting to participate in the programme and will then be issued with a pack of seven Lateral Flow Device Kits. The participant should ideally undertake the test in their home.

It is advised that each school should nominate a pair of days each week to synchronise testing for their school community. Options are:

Test Day One	Test Day Two	Considerations
Monday	Thursday	Testing on a Monday morning and Thursday morning (before school) provides the opportunity for participants to provide a result at the start and the mid-point of the week. You will need to ensure that test kits are distributed towards the end of a week.
Tues	Friday	Testing on a Tuesday and Friday (before school) moves testing into your school week, which provides the option of issuing kits at the start of the week, however, it means on each Monday that it is now three days since the last test.
Wed	Sun	Testing on a Wednesday evening and a Sunday evening means that participants can provide you with a result ahead of the start of the week, however, participants need to ensure they don't eat or drink 30mins before taking their test. Please note this will also increase the likelihood of being contacted on a Sunday/Wednesday evening.
NB: It is not advised to arrange testing for a Saturday as this reduces the frequency of testing to only once in a school week.		

Once the participant has taken their test they take the following actions:

- If their **LFD** result is **negative**:
 - The individual can return to school and continues to follow all public health advice in place at that time.
 - They report their result to the NHS portal - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- If their **LFD** result is **positive**:
 - The individual and their household bubble should self-isolate.
 - They should report their result to the NHS portal - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> which will guide them through the process to book a confirmatory PCR.
 - They should also inform the school.
 - At this point other participants can continue to attend school.
- If the confirmatory **PCR** is **negative**:
 - The participant can return to school
- If the confirmatory **PCR** is **positive** the individual is now a confirmed case:
 - The individual and their household must self-isolate and inform the school.
 - The school will active the confirmed case protocol for the identified close contact group.

4. Implementing the Programme in Post-Primary Schools

To introduce lateral flow testing a staged approach is needed which will enable you to maintain oversight of the programme and to build confidence in the benefits it can bring for your school.

	<p>Phase 1 – Introducing the Programme and Establishing Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First review the materials and templates provided and create your school’s consent forms. • Next issue the programme information to staff and pupils in Years 12, 13 and 14 along with the consent form. • A PDF document is supplied and potential participants can also be signposted to https://sway.office.com/whz8dJ46JpeKLcIV?ref=Link
	<p>Phase 2 – Setting up the Programme Record Workbook</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An excel workbook has been created to assist you in managing the information and data created by this programme. • Open the workbook and carry out the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enter your school’s DE number in the box in the first tab. ○ Read the process overview. ○ Run the SIMS Report for Lateral Flow Testing (available on C2K exchange) and copy and paste the information into the STEP 1 tab in the excel workbook.
	<p>Phase 3 – Issuing the LFD Kits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As consent forms are returned record these on the STEP 2 tab of the excel workbook. • When you start to record consent returns you can then filter this list and copy and paste it into the STEP 3 tab of your excel workbook. • When you issue the kits you must record who issued it, who received it, the LOT Number and expiry dates.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each participant receives one box containing seven kits. (Do not split the contents of a box)
	Phase 4 – Familiarising participants with LFD Kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once participants have received kits you should commence a familiarisation phase with them on how to use the LFD kit and record their results. See - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo
	Phase 5 – Carrying Out the Test and Reporting the Result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The participants will carry out the test. Those under 18 should be supervised by an adult. The participants will self-report their LFD result (positive or negative) to the NHS portal https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result or by ringing 119. Please note this will not work for participants in ROI – the school may have to report their result for them. If the LFD result is Positive, Void or they Did Not Test they should inform the school. If the result is positive the participant and their household bubble must immediately self-isolate, inform the school and arrange a confirmatory PCR Test. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IF the PCR is negative they return to school. IF the PCR is positive they continue to self-isolate and the school follows the confirmed case protocol for Covid19.
	Phase 6 – Recording the Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school should record all LFD results in the STEP 4 tab. The tab is defaulted to show all results as negative – you must change this if a participant informs you of a positive, void or did not test outcome.
	Phase 7 – Reordering Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first batch of supplies has been distributed by the Education Authority. Schools are responsible for notifying EA how many participants they will have moving forward. We will provide details of the link on C2K Exchange. The kits will be delivered directly to the school by a national distributor. (Not EA).

5. Suggested Implementation Plan

The following plan is not prescriptive and can be adapted to suit your school setting:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue programme information and consent forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to gather consent forms Issue kits to staff who wish to participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to gather consent forms Start to issue kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue consent return Continue testing kit issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise kit issue Answer any additional questions from staff and pupils.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run SIMS report and Setup Excel workbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff undertake test at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstration of process for pupils• First Pupils undertake test at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review pupil progress – How did it go• <u>Order More Kits Now based on your participation numbers.</u>	
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