

→ [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) | National lockdown: stay at home

→ [Brexit](#) | Check how the new rules affect you

[Home](#) > [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) > [Education and childcare during coronavirus](#)
 > [Closures, exams and managing a school or early years setting during coronavirus](#)
 > [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) asymptomatic testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries](#)

Part of
[Education and childcare during coronavirus](#)



Guidance
Rapid asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for staff in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools
 Published 18 January 2021

Contents

[Testing for primary, school-based nursery and maintained nursery school staff](#)

[Further information](#)

[Print this page](#)

Testing for primary, school-based nursery and maintained nursery school staff

Following the launch of rapid asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in secondary schools and colleges on 4 January, staff in primary, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools are also being offered the opportunity to take part in regular asymptomatic testing.

It remains imperative that the [system of controls](#) continues to be rigorously applied to enable the safest possible environment. The testing programme is an important addition to supporting leaders to maintain the continuity of education through the pandemic.

All primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools will start to receive deliveries of home testing kits to offer to all their staff from 18 January.

Primary, school-based nursery and maintained nursery staff will be supplied with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits to self-swab. Staff will be asked to take their test kits home and carry out the test twice a week. The LFD test will give a result in around 30 minutes. Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff should also share their result with their school or nursery to help with contact tracing.

Testing is not mandatory for staff and staff do not need to provide proof of a negative test result to attend school or nursery in person, although participation in testing is strongly encouraged.

Staff with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#). They will also need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. Staff with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school or nursery and use protective measures.

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines.

Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

Further information

This page will be updated with information on how to access more testing guidance and materials when they are made available.

Primary, school-based nursery and maintained nursery staff will also be able to attend webinars on the asymptomatic testing programme which will be recorded and may be viewed at a later date.

Is this page useful?

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support](#)

Brexit

[Check how the new Brexit rules affect you](#)

Services and information

- [Benefits](#)
- [Education and learning](#)
- [Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)
- [Employing people](#)
- [Business and self-employed](#)
- [Environment and countryside](#)
- [Childcare and parenting](#)
- [Housing and local services](#)
- [Citizenship and living in the UK](#)
- [Money and tax](#)
- [Crime, justice and the law](#)
- [Passports, travel and living abroad](#)
- [Disabled people](#)
- [Visas and immigration](#)
- [Driving and transport](#)
- [Working, jobs and pensions](#)

Departments and policy

- [How government works](#)
- [Departments](#)
- [Worldwide](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Guidance and regulation](#)
- [News and communications](#)
- [Research and statistics](#)
- [Policy papers and consultations](#)
- [Transparency and freedom of information releases](#)

