

## **Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) – information and FAQ's**

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

The test is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to take it. All students who are currently attending the academy are being asked to take the test. If your child is not involved in the testing process, they will be asked to self-isolate when positive cases are identified and proximity guidelines met. As testing will be taking place routinely, it is likely that more positive cases will be found so where students are not taking part in the routine testing it is likely that self-isolation could occur more frequently. We will be testing all staff and secondary school age students who want to participate from week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as per Government guidance. If you are happy for your child to be tested, you will need to fill in a registration form and a consent statement for each of your children who attends Bristnall Hall Academy. The easiest way to return these forms to the academy is to complete via an online form ([https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xdLyfqiXBUG8-uPBJu\\_zX4\\_ykgUUXC9NrC\\_DkH1V-jFUMFVXSkpNMIhMWFRQTTZRSINIWU-IOUUZPQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xdLyfqiXBUG8-uPBJu_zX4_ykgUUXC9NrC_DkH1V-jFUMFVXSkpNMIhMWFRQTTZRSINIWU-IOUUZPQi4u)) or to print this document and ask your child(ren) to return it when they are next in attendance at the academy.

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. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed if there is a positive test result.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). Bristnall Hall Academy will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. The on-site PCR tests are faster with respect to obtaining a confirmatory result so these are preferable. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should therefore choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time while you wait for your PCR result (via text / email) you will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. If the result is confirmed by the PCR test other students who are contacts will be involved in sequential 7 day testing and those contacts not taking part in testing will be self-isolating at home for 10 days.

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

Your child will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal as part of their second and third tests. 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 pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

#### **What if a close contact at school tests positive?**

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate for 10 days as per the national guidelines. We will contact you if your child is affected by a positive test result as part of the second and third tests which students will take once they have returned full-time to school.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school 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 or other symptoms identified by the World Health Organisation that are linked to Covid19) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

What about the data held about me/my child?

All data collected will be held within GDPR regulations. Please ensure you read the Privacy Notice shared by the academy at the time of communication and prior to providing consent for your child to be tested as part of the LFT process.