



Aston Manor Academy

All different • All equal • All achieving

PHILLIPS STREET, ASTON, BIRMINGHAM B6 4PZ TEL: 0121 359 8108 FAX: 0121 359 2426

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WEBSITE: www.astonmanoracademy.com

HEADTEACHER: JILL SWEENEY



16th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the testing of students in school. We will have conducted over 2000 since we returned on 8th March when we finish mass testing and the staff running the test centre have nothing but praise for the conduct of the students whilst being tested. From **19th March**, we will finish our mass in school testing and move to **student home testing** as requested by the government.

Testing students at home

All students will receive their test kits between Tuesday 16th – Thursday 18th March. We would like students to take their tests before school on the following days:

Monday 22nd March, Thursday 25th March, Monday 29th March and Thursday 1st April (now an Teacher Training Day).

We have recently been informed that students and staff should continue to test during the Easter holidays. Therefore, we would like students to take their tests on the following days

Monday 5th April, Thursday 8th April, Monday 12th April, Thursday 15th April, Sunday 18th April (in preparation for return to school after the Easter holidays)

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive 3 packs of 3 tests with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results; this will cover the timeframe above.

We suggest you make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed. Results will need to be reported (see below for details).

Taking the test

We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful NHS video on YouTube to show you how to take the test [here](#) and I have also created a video as well that has been shown to students and will be on the school website.

[Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test. There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).





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This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. You will also need to tell the school the result of each test via a [Microsoft Form](#)

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 need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and Aston Manor Academy ASAP. You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home. If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

Negative and void results should be reported as mentioned above to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Aston Manor Academy via the [Microsoft Form](#). 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 and observing social distancing.

You need to report each test result

Whilst I am fully aware of the publicised concerns about the accuracy of Lateral Flow Testing, the more students that take part in testing at home, the increased chance of asymptomatic students being detected, allowing your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible. Testing is just one tool that can be used to maintain safety at Aston Manor Academy. If you are concerned that your child may struggle to take the test at home, we will have a small test centre still open. Further information about this option will be sent out later.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about home testing. Attached below are some Frequently asked questions provided by the Department for Education.

Thank you for your support.

Mr N Turner

Deputy Headteacher





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Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Aston Manor Academy regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void) via a [Microsoft Form](#)

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.

Students aged 12-17 should do the test 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.

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/>

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>





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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

LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

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 take the test [here](#).

Can I or 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.





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This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test 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 www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19/covid-test-finder)

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 www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students.](#)

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) your child's name, your child's test result and the reference number on the test Kit

You will also need to tell your child's school or college their test result.

Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice

<https://www.astonmanor.bham.sch.uk/covid-19/>

