



Office of the Director of Public Health

Customer and Corporate Services Directorate
Public Health
West Offices
Station Rise
York YO1 6GA

Date: 21 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Subject: Covid-19 testing for pupils in September

As we reach the end of the most challenging academic year in living memory we wanted to say thank you and wish you a happy and safe summer.

We also wanted to update you on what you need to do before school returns in September as well as tips to help you enjoy summer safely.

Symptom-free testing

Please keep getting tested throughout the summer as it really does make a difference. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus have no symptoms. By identifying these cases and supporting them to self-isolate we will help to stop the spread of the virus and help keep our schools open and as safe as possible.

In order to keep our schools safe it is advised that your child should have at least two lateral flow tests, three days apart, just before attending secondary school in September.

Pupils do not have to take lateral flow tests if they have had a positive 'PCR test' result within the last 90 days.

Getting symptom-free tests

You can collect test kits from a number of venues across the city to do the testing at home. We recommend that everyone of secondary school age and above takes part in regular twice weekly testing, even during the school holidays.

[Find where to get rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/covid-19/testing/rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

If you have not taken part in testing before or would prefer the test to be carried out in person at one of our test sites, we have a number of venues in the city that you can attend. You can find details and opening times here:

[Symptom-free coronavirus testing – City of York Council](https://www.york.gov.uk/coronavirus/testing)

From mid-August the test kits we will provide from our testing sites for home use will only require a nasal swab to be taken, rather than the throat **and** nasal swab that is currently required. We will share more information on this when we can.

What if a pupil tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow test, the guidance states that they should inform the school and should self-isolate (not attend school).

Pupils will then need to take a further 'PCR test' within two days to confirm the result. If this test comes back negative the pupil can stop isolating and return to school, if they are well enough to do so. If the PCR test comes back positive, the pupil needs to remain off school and self-isolate for a period of ten days from the start of symptoms or from taking the lateral flow test, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is under 18 will not be classed as a contact of a positive case, and therefore we will no longer be advising other pupils to self-isolate when there is a positive case in their school or class.

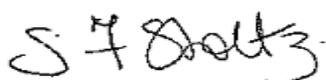
What if my child develops symptoms?

Regular lateral flow testing 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 of change to your sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please note that this information is correct as of today, but could change before September. We will keep you informed if any major changes occur. The Government website is also kept up to date with the latest guidance at www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

We have enclosed some information and tips to help you enjoy summer safely, we hope this is helpful. Thanks again for your support, we wish you and your family a great summer.



**Director of Public Health
City of York Council**