

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT LATERAL FLOW TESTING

How will the testing work?

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained Poltair Staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of your nose and throat. For our students, staff will oversee the swab process and there will be extra support for those with an EHCP or who have an anxiety about the testing. Once students have been tested, they will return to the Hub.

Results take approximately half an hour from testing to be identified.

Is there anything I can do to prepare for the test?

Only two things!

- 1- It might be helpful to bring your mobile phone if it has a torch on it, as this can help when you use the test.
- 2- Make sure you do not eat or drink anything for at least 30minutes before you are due to test.

Do the tests actually work?

In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, these tests were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents or legal guardians will be notified and the student will be requested to isolate whilst we contact a parent to arrange collection.

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). We will be able to provide these PCR

test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test.

If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time, while students wait for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. If the PCR test returns a negative result, please contact school on secretary@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk to arrange for one of the school staff to contact you to arrange for the student to return to school. Please **do not** send them into school without contacting us first and sharing your test results.

What happens if the test is negative?

We will not discuss or identify to students that their results have come back as 'negative'. If they do not receive any further contact from staff following their test, they should continue taking safe measures and following all government guidance (Hands, Face, Space).

Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear anything you can assume it was negative.

A small number of students 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?

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19, they will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days as per the government guidance (this can be found here [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person))

The parent will be contacted to come and collect the student from school and provided with a guidance letter for the following 10 days. The student will be expected to engage in the Remote Learning programme from home until able to return to school.

What if my child develops 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) 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>. If they were due to attend the Hub on that day, please ensure you alert the school by calling 01726 874520.

I'm feeling really anxious about the testing what can I do?

This is a challenging situation for us all to be in. The safety precautions such as staff wearing full PPE in the test centre, as well as the re-purposing of a space can feel intimidating to some of our students. It is completely normal that we might feel anxious about this on some level.

The testing is safe, quick and does not hurt if we follow the guidelines and instructions given. We don't want anyone feeling stressed by this. Our staff are on hand in the testing centre to support.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the main office on 01726 874520 or email secretary@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk