

The content of today's email is relevant for schools and colleges.

Consent for participation in asymptomatic test site (ATS) testing

On return in the autumn, secondary schools and colleges do not need to re-seek consent for pupils or students who have previously provided consent for ATS testing. However, if you wish to do so, please use the updated form on our [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).

Consent must be sought for any pupil or student who has not previously given consent for testing, for example new entrants in year 7. Schools and colleges need to keep a record of consent for ATS testing and may wish to hold the information collected in the [COVID-19 test register](#).

Continue regular COVID-19 testing in open education settings this summer

Secondary school pupils, college students and staff attending a summer school or any education setting over the holidays, should continue testing twice-weekly at home. They will continue to be supplied with test kits through their education settings.

For those not attending education settings over the summer holidays, tests will be available to order [online](#) or from most [pharmacies](#).

New resources are available on the [COVID-19 resources centre](#) for schools and local authorities to use to help students maintain

the habit of twice-weekly testing over the summer ahead of the autumn term.

Confirmatory PCR test after a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test

LFD tests are most effective when detecting infectious cases of COVID-19. They identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. LFD tests detect the virus in people without symptoms so each positive case we find is one that would have gone otherwise undetected. These tests are proving to be accurate and reliable and, where used appropriately and in the correct way, they will continue to help us to break chains of the transmission and save lives.

Anyone who tests positive using an LFD test will be asked to take a confirmatory follow-up PCR test. It remains essential that anyone who gets a positive LFD result self-isolates immediately, along with other members of their household, pending the confirmatory PCR result. You should arrange your confirmatory PCR immediately and only leave home for your follow-up test. For the fastest result, we suggest you [book a PCR test at a test site](#). You can also book a home test [online](#) or call 119 to book a test.

A PCR test will confirm if you have been affected by COVID-19 and reduce unnecessary self-isolation by you and your household. If you then receive a negative result from the PCR, and the PCR test was taken within 2 days of the LFD, then you and your contacts will be informed that you can cease self-isolating.

Individuals who test negative from an LFD test will not need to isolate or take a confirmatory PCR test.

The information below has not changed since our last update

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The [Department for Education COVID-19 helpline](#) and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education settings and children's social care.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)

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