



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

17 March 2021

RE: Home testing

Dear Students, Parents or Guardians,

Thank you for your support with the asymptomatic testing in school. I am very proud of the way that all of our Borden students have approached this in such a mature and supportive fashion - they have been a credit to us all. A particular thank you goes to those parents who volunteered, some for more than a week, to help guide and support our students through the process.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, once students have completed their 3 tests in school, or in external testing sites, we will be arranging for them to collect their home testing kits. They will receive 2 boxes (6 tests in total) and a set of instructions. Please note these tests must only be used by the students that they have been allocated to. The tests will be available to collect from the Sports Hall and students will be notified by their form tutors when to collect them.

Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools and the outside community. So whilst voluntary, I am therefore strongly encouraging all pupils to take the tests to help make our school safer for all. The tests are the same as those we have been using in school but are packaged for use at home. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommend two Lateral Flow Device tests (LFD) 3 to 4 days apart, or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections. A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission

Testing at home:

Pupils should take the test twice a week before coming into school, preferably Monday and Thursday morning. Make sure you have enough time to complete the test and register the results before coming to school, if mornings are not ideal you can take the test the evening before i.e. Sunday and Wednesday.

Once the test has been conducted you must log the test result with NHS test and trace service at: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



and also with school at -

<https://website.bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk> (click on 'Student Test Result' under the announcements heading)- *note: you have to be logged into your child's google account to complete the website form.*

Can I take the test myself?

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 and report it, if they need support. Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

Below is a YouTube video showing how to do the test –

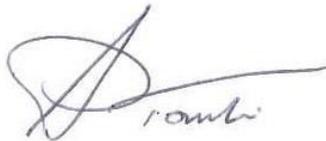
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1>

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and you will be able to attend school whether you take part in testing or not. However, I strongly encourage all students to take part as this will allow us to reduce the spread of the virus and help everyone in school feel more safe. Please contact **Jane Hall** (jhall@bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk) our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Tomlin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr A Tomlin
Headteacher

Four easy stages of a rapid COVID-19 self-test



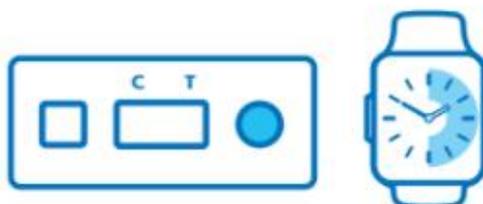
1 **Set-up:** sanitise testing area and hands, unpack kit, read instructions



2 **Swab:** throat then nose



3 **Process test:** place swab in liquid in tube, squeeze liquid onto test device



4 **Read result:** ensure test device is on a flat surface, wait and read result at 30 minutes

Some frequently asked questions

What should you do after the test?

- 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 should report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and your school.
- You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at School/college).
- If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you will need to do another test.
- **Negative and void results** should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.
- 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.
- If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

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 [PRIVACY NOTICE](#)
- Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Borden Grammar School, regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).
- 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>

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 - they give rapid results within 30 minutes

What does it mean if I have a positive result?

- If you have a positive antigen LFD test result you, your household and 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 & Trace and your school.

- You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at Borden Grammar School).
- You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if I have a negative result?

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.

What if I have a void result?

- If the result of the test is unclear (void), you should take another one. If the next test is also void, you should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).
- All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Borden Grammar School.

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 administer the test.

How do you report the result?

- Once you have taken the test, you will need to report the result online (whether it is positive, negative or void) using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.
- All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Borden Grammar School.

Can 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. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:
 - I. get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information
 - II. 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)
 - III. 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-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?

- To report your result, you will need to share some information about yourself, so that your test result can be traced.
- You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):
 - I. your name
 - II. your test result
 - III. the reference number on the test Kit
- You will also need to tell your school or college your test result.
- Under UK law, your school or college collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.
- 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.
- When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They will share it with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer you health services and guidance if you need to self-isolate. They might also use your data anonymously (without your 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 on our website GDPR tab or at this link: [PRIVACY NOTICE](#)