



70.Lateral Flow Device Testing.

Lateral flow device (LFD) testing is 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.

Why are the Lateral Flow Device tests being offered?

Testing will help to identify positive cases, particularly those who may have the virus and do not have symptoms. This is important as up to one in three people who have the virus have it asymptotically and show no symptoms. This means people could be spreading the disease unknowingly.

By providing staff with home testing kits, we will be able to better meet the needs of our workforce and identify positive cases more quickly to break the chains of transmissions.

What is a Lateral Flow Device test?

The test kit is a hand-held device with an absorbent pad at one end and a reading window at the other. Inside the device is a strip of test paper that changes colour in the presence of COVID-19 proteins (antigens).

Lateral flow tests are practical, easy to interpret and can be used in a wide range of settings. This makes them ideal for widespread use in the community. Staff who decline to participate can still attend preschool if not symptomatic.

How will this work?

Staff will be asked to take their test kits home and carry out the test twice a week, on Sundays & Wednesdays. The test will give a result in around 30 minutes.

Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. You cannot report a result after more than 24 hours.

Staff should also share their result with us to help with contact tracing. Please email your result to office@cornerstoneunder5s.org.uk and text the business Manager if the result is positive.

Staff with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend the preschool.

- You will need to register your test kit online
- Take a swab sample
- Read your results on the test device
- Report your results to the NHS
- Email your result to Cornerstone Preschool (office@cornerstoneunder5s.org.uk)
- If you receive an Invalid result, you will need to take another test and email both results to us.
- Each staff member will be given a box of kits with their unique lot number. Please ensure you use the same box for each of your tests.



Instructions will be included in your test kits. Step by step guides in different formats are also available [here](#)

What if my test is positive?

Staff with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the current stay at home guidance. They will also need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. It is a legal requirement that you notify us of a positive result.

What if I have symptoms of COVID?

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines.

Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

What if I have previously had a positive COVID test result?

A staff member who tested positive should recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken.

While testing is voluntary, it is recommended that all staff participate in the testing programme because it is so important that we are able to break chains of transmission. It will assist in, and add to, our measures in line with our duty of care to both Staff and children in reducing the risk to both groups. Lateral Flow Device testing will support the smooth running of the Cornerstone Preschool and minimise closures etc.

Remember: Lateral Flow Tests are only for people **without** symptoms, if you have symptoms you must isolate and arrange a PCR test immediately.

This policy was adopted at The committee meeting of the Under 5s held on: 6th November 2023

Signed on behalf of the Pre-school _____ (Chair)