



Croesyceiliog School  
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Croesyceiliog  
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8 March 2021

### **NHS Test, Trace, Protect: COVID-19 Testing for Students in Year 10 and above only**

Dear Parent/guardian and students,

The Welsh Government has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in education and childcare settings across Wales.

Along with our protective measures we are already taking, such as social distancing and good hand hygiene, testing will allow us to take further measures to help our school community to continue working in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly.

#### **Why are schools using Lateral Flow Tests?**

Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. The speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus.

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 it is recommended that two LFD tests are taken 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.

If your child tests positive using a LFD, it is likely that they are infectious at that moment, and must self-isolate and book a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>. Contact tracing will be triggered following a positive LFD and close contacts will be required to self-isolate until they receive their PCR test result, if the PCR test result is positive your child and close contacts will have to self-isolate. 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 – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk. For further information see [here](#).

#### **How the tests work**

If you agree for your child to take part please complete the following [Parental Permission](#). This will allow us to give your child a LFD test kit which will enable self-testing from home. Your child would conduct the test, at home on a Wednesday after 5pm and a Sunday after 6pm. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit and can be seen [Self Test Instructions](#). There are further resources and guides on the Welsh Government Online Document Platform which we, as a setting, have access to.

Once the test has been conducted you or your child will log the test result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) and need to also, separately, inform the school of the test result through the following [Lateral Flow Testing Results](#). You will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from NHS Test & Trace. Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the school.

#### **Consent / Privacy**

Once you have understood the testing process and read the attached privacy notice [Privacy Notice](#), and you agree for your child to participate, you are committing to self-administer the test and provide your child's results.

With our primary protective measures and testing, we will help to reduce the spread in education and childcare settings. I am therefore strongly encouraging all students in Year 10 and above to take the tests. However, students who decline to participate can still attend their lessons if not symptomatic.

Students who decline to participate in this testing programme should follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and anyone should get tested if they show symptoms.

We will support our students throughout this but if you have any further questions please contact through our school email: [head.croesyceiliogcomp@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:head.croesyceiliogcomp@torfaen.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs E Lewis*  
Executive Headteacher

*Miss V. Harris*  
Head of School