

Coronavirus (COVID-19) staff testing in primary schools

On 15 December, the Secretary of State for Education announced [plans to introduce asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges](#), starting with secondary and further education colleges and rolling-out to primary schools in January.

The DfE confirmed on 13 January that primary schools and maintained nursery schools should expect to receive a delivery of **home testing kits** between the 18 and 22 January for testing of staff.

Further support and guidance from the DfE on how to use the tests will be published shortly. If you have not received a delivery of test kits by close on Monday **25 January**, or have missing or damaged items, please complete this [contact form](#). You will need the URN for your school to complete this form. **You do not need to start any testing before the week commencing 25 January.**

Primary schools with attached early years settings will receive sufficient test kits to test both their primary and early years staff. Maintained nursery schools will also receive testing kits to offer to their staff.

Private early years providers will continue to be [prioritised for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing](#) through the NHS testing programme. For those without symptoms, asymptomatic testing is available through the local Community Testing sites. In Ealing for staff that live or work in Ealing can book an appointment through this link [Get a test](#). Similar facilities are available in boroughs where staff live.

How many tests per week?

Testing will be voluntary. The DfE scheme is based on staff testing once a week. Ealing Public Health recommend twice weekly testing of staff, 3 to 4 days apart, where this is possible. If the school does not have enough testing kits you may wish to ask staff to take the second test at one of the community testing sites near where they live over the weekend

DfE Webinars

Together with NHS Test and Trace, the DfE will be hosting a series of webinars for primary schools that will provide information on testing and discuss any issues that may arise, DfE will also publish guidance. Each webinar will last for 60 minutes and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Each webinar has a maximum capacity of 10,000 attendees.

The webinars will be repeated, and recordings made available online. You will only need to attend one on each topic.

They will be available on the following dates (click on the link to join):

Introduction to testing in primary schools.

- [Monday, 18 January, 10am to 11am](#)
- [Monday, 18 January, 2pm to 3pm](#)

Reporting and recording of results.

- [Tuesday, 19 January, 10am to 11am](#)
- [Tuesday, 19 January, 2pm to 3pm](#)

Council Support

The efficacy of testing depends on staff taking swab samples correctly and processing the swab carefully. The School Nursing Service will offer interactive on-line training to staff attending schools each working day from **Wednesday 20th January to 29th January**. The sessions will commence at **4pm** and last for an hour. These sessions augment the training material provided by DfE – see below.

School Nursing Service: LFT interactive training for primary and special schools with primary aged children.

The sessions will run from Wednesday 20th to 29th January from 4pm and last up to an hour. Please try to join the training around 3.45pm so staff can do introductions and the register. The sessions will provide an opportunity for colleagues to raise questions directly with the trainers.

Subject to demand, these will run until February half term and will be opened up for all other school staff. Before joining the session, you will need to download the video conferencing app, bluejeans. <https://www.bluejeans.com/downloads>

Before attending a session, staff should access the DfE guidance and training materials.

Click the link below if you wish to join the session. The link should work for all sessions. If you have any issues regarding joining please call Yugesh Wadhwa Ealing School Health Team Lead on: 07887 802510. Y.wadhwa@nhs.net or Sian Nelson, Community Nurse, School Nurse Team Sian.nelson@nhs.net

You can also copy the link and paste it on your browser's address bar then press enter. Please avoid using Internet Explorer to join meetings.

<https://bluejeans.com/947552722/2702/webrtc>