

Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing for those who have recently tested positive for COVID-19

Please find below the NHS guidance relating to this: If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last.

It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should **not** be retested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

If, however, you do have an antigen LFD test within 90 days of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, for example as a part of the school testing programme, and the result of the test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.

If it is more than 90 days since you tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, and you have new symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive antigen LFD or PCR test, follow the steps in this guidance again.

For children who have recently tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test, it is the responsibility of the parent to track the 90 day period from the test date and to determine whether you wish your child(ren) to participate in the LFD (asymptomatic) testing on return to school. Students are allowed to opt in to the programme again earlier than that if they choose (providing the school has received the appropriate consent).

LFD tests do not pick up residual viral load, therefore are very unlikely to give a false positive whilst in recovery from an infection. However, should an individual opt in to the programme and subsequently test positive, he/she (and his/her household) must self-isolate. It is very important, therefore, for parents of students who have recently tested positive to have this conversation with their child(ren) and ensure that they are clear about this guidance.

If you (or your child(ren) if aged 16 or over) have already provided consent to testing to the school and he/she arrives at the test centre for a test, he/she will be tested as the school is not responsible for tracking the 90 day period.