

ACLP/ITP Webinar Q&A

What is the testing programme and how do we access it? Is there any guidance available?

Twice weekly rapid asymptomatic testing is now available for all staff and students in ITPs and ACLPs who need to attend on site for work or education. Since the 25th of March, home test kits for students and staff can be ordered [link](#). Providers will need to submit the numbers of staff and students that tests will be offered to and should consider attendance and likely uptake when placing an order. The full policy guidance is available on gov.uk [\[link\]](#).

Detailed, practical guidance on asymptomatic home testing is also available to view on our [\[document sharing platform – add link\]](#). This includes:

- guidance to support testing for staff and students, including a 'How to Guide'.
- in-depth information and videos on how to self-test from home
- resources such as webinar recordings, posters and letter templates for you to use for your students, parents and stakeholders.
- frequently asked questions

Do students in our setting need to complete a consent form prior to participating in testing?

By collecting and opening the test at home test kits, the individual's consent is implied, and they commit to reporting their results via the NHS Test and Trace reporting system.

Will the instructions be available in any other language, apart from English?

Information for testing in other languages can be found at this [link](#).

Does twice a week testing apply to full time students and so should be adjusted for part time students?

All students regularly attending their provider onsite should conduct testing at home, twice a week, 3-4 days apart, regardless of whether they attend one day per week, or five. Regular testing plays an important role in helping to stop transmission of the virus. However, if staff and students already have access to regular testing in their workplace, they should continue to access testing through this route.

What if a learner is only attending one session/day a week or a tutor is only tutoring one day a week? Do they still need to test twice a week?

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Is there any funding to support the key activities for testing?

The home testing offer is intended to make the process as simple to manage as possible, minimising the demands placed on provider's workforces to deliver their staff and student testing programme. The responsibilities of the programme (Covid Coordinator and Registration Assistant) are intended to be integrated within existing staff or volunteer structures. We do not expect additional staffing costs to be incurred, as the administrative requirements for providers are relatively light and there is no additional equipment required to administer the tests. Therefore, there is no additional funding available to distribute home testing.

Can we only ask students and staff to test, or can we make it mandatory?

Testing is voluntary, but staff and students are strongly encouraged to participate in testing regularly, as this helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly. Individuals should be allowed to attend their education setting even if they decide not to take part in testing.

By collecting and opening the test at home test kits, the individual's consent is implied, and they commit to reporting their results via the NHS Test and Trace reporting system. There is no need to specifically record individuals' consent for test at home. Please make sure that staff and students understand they do not give written consent for home testing and ensure they are issued with the privacy notice for test at home.

Do people who have been vaccinated need to test?

Yes, we do not yet know whether vaccines prevent individuals transmitting the virus. If staff/students have been vaccinated, they should continue to get tested and follow [national guidelines](#). The vaccine does not interfere with the antigen LFD or PCR tests.

Testing should continue even for those who have been vaccinated. Clinical trial evidence demonstrates that the vaccine reduces clinically severe infection and severe disease. The impact of the vaccine on preventing transmission remains under review and individuals who have been vaccinated may still carry and be able to transmit the virus.

We advise anyone who has been vaccinated to continue to observe national lockdown restrictions and engage with asymptomatic LFD and PCR testing if appropriate.

As an independent training provider, we do not currently have any training on site, but our apprenticeship tutors need to go into schools for their apprentices. Are we still eligible for Testing Kits?

Schools and FE providers should offer testing to all staff who travel into schools and colleges, including teaching and non-teaching staff members, such as support staff, clinical practitioners, and therapists. Non-permanent members of staff should also be offered testing. However, if staff and students already have access to regular testing in their workplace, they should continue to access testing through this route.

I want to order test kits on the online portal but not sure which option to select?

On the online portal and go to the 'Test kit options' page, select the option of 'Lateral flow tests for home testing' and click 'Place order'.

Once test kits have been received; are we permitted to post the kits to home addresses rather than have people travelling into a location?

If a provider requires kits to be delivered to alternative or additional site, they must contact 119 and provide the new address details.

Can kits be ordered and sent to alternative addresses? We are in a rented space and it has limited opening hours for post/couriers.

If a provider requires kits to be delivered to alternative or additional site, they must contact 119 and provide the new address details.

We subcontract our adult learning provision. Will we need to order the kits on behalf of our providers, or will they be able to order the kits in their own name to their community premises?

The responsibility for testing rests with the provider that has the contract with ESFA. Where providers operate sub-contracted provision, they can either order test kits for ALL students and make their own arrangements to students at subcontractors to collect them; or they can register the subcontractor as a separate address so that deliveries can be made directly to the subcontractor. Whichever option is chosen, it remains the responsibility of the provider to order the test kits and ensure that students and staff have access to testing.

If a provider requires kits to be delivered to alternative or additional site, they must contact 119 and provide the new address details. There is, however, no need for providers to test staff or students that already have access to rapid testing i.e., through their workplace. Therefore, where subcontractors already have testing arrangements in place that are accessible to students, this should be the testing solution used and providers should not need to order tests for those students.