

Date: 24.5.2021  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: EY/SCH



**Public Health**  
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[www.bolton.gov.uk](http://www.bolton.gov.uk)

FAO: Parents of early years, primary and secondary pupils

## **Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Let's Get Tested Bolton**

You will have seen in the local and national press that Bolton has seen a rise in Covid-19 cases over the past few weeks.

Enhanced testing is taking place across different areas of Bolton to try and identify positive cases and reduce the transmission of the virus. This testing includes people who do not have any symptoms, but who do have the virus and can pass it on to others without knowing.

Rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Tests are free, simple to carry out at home and give you a result in about 30 minutes. They are intended for young people over the age of 11 (at secondary school) and adults. **Testing is voluntary, but to identify positive cases quickly and help reduce the transmission of the virus, we would strongly encourage everyone in Bolton over the age of 11 to continue carrying out an LFD Test twice a week.**

Your child's education provider currently receives testing kits for staff, and secondary schools also receive kits for their pupils. Over the next few weeks, your education provider will be receiving additional LFD testing kits to share with parents. This means that you can now get an LFD test kit from:

- Your education provider
- Online from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- Some local pharmacies – find your nearest pharmacy here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Each kit will have enough tests for you to do 2 tests a week for 3 and a half weeks. **Please continue to take the LFD tests twice a week over the coming months to help positive Covid-19 cases to be identified quickly and reduce the spread of Covid-19.**

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Please note that that Rapid LFD tests are for people with no symptoms. Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms, should continue to book a PCR test online, or by calling 119. PCR is short for polymerase chain reaction – and is a swab test to the back of the throat and nose and results are sent for lab analysis. Results normally come back within 24-48 hours.

Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Helen Lowey**  
**Director of Public Health**

Directorate of Public Health

**Bolton Blackrod Farnworth Horwich Kearsley Little Lever South Turton Westhoughton ...all in the family**

