

COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing [LFT] Risk Assessment for Schools: Clyst Vale Community College

CLYST VALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE		Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing [LFT] risk assessment.	Assessment reviewed by manager name: Kevin Bawn, Principal		
Date of Assessment:		27/01/2021			
For all groups (students, staff, volunteers) testing is voluntary, but those who are eligible for tests are strongly encouraged to participate to reduce the risk of transmission within schools and colleges. In line with routine infection control practice, close contacts who decide not to be tested daily must self-isolate in line with the Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection . At present, in line with government and Public Health advice, we are NOT operating daily testing of close contacts as an alternative to self-isolation. Further, the position with regard to mass-testing using LFTs when schools return is currently unclear.					
Task / Activity	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	Are your team carrying out this Task/Activity (COVID-19 only)	Existing control measures	Further control measures
Initial Preparation	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	There are no risks associated with training and preparation beyond those of attending the site. Please refer to the overall College Risk Assessment.	Yes	<p>All staff involved in testing are tested themselves twice-weekly, and volunteers 30 minutes before they start testing</p> <p>School Premises Covid-19 Risk Assessment formulated and actioned alongside the schools planning framework</p> <p>All schools and childcare settings to follow Government and Local Authority guidance which can be found on EGfL</p> <p>Anyone showing symptoms of, coronavirus (COVID-19) (a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell - anosmia), or have someone in their household who is, not allowed in a school or childcare setting.</p> <p>Staff and families with COVID-19 symptoms to follow government guidance and self-isolate at home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing approach communicated to all testing staff • All testing staff familiarised with NHS and DFE guidance • All testing staff and other relevant staff have taken the NHS online training AND onsite run through on their first day of testing

Preparation of Testing Area	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	There are no risks in preparing the area (other than being on site). The measures significantly mitigate risk to the team providing testing, especially social distancing.	Yes	<p>Testing Site Identified.</p> <p>Consent forms issued to gain formal consent for testing and sharing results</p> <p>Consent forms collated and information safely stored</p> <p>Rigorous cleaning of the testing area between tests</p> <p>Strict observation of PPE contamination protocols</p> <p>Strict regard to NHS Covid-19 National Testing Programme- Schools and Colleges Handbook</p>	<p>Test site flooring is non-porous and cleaned with coronavirus grade products</p> <p>Test site is well lit with good airflow, aided by opening of doors and high ceiling</p> <p>Registration desk is at the first point where test subject would enter the Test site</p> <p>One-way system for test subjects.</p> <p>Observation of 2m social distancing throughout process</p> <p>Except: it is required that each swabbing desk must have a processing desk close by –no more than 1m away. Recording desk is also located close by.</p> <p>Test subjects must not enter area processing area. This is demarcated.</p> <p>There is a clear and demarcated division between the swabbing and processing areas.</p> <p>Observation of wider health and safety considerations, including social distancing, disability access, and fire safety regulations</p>
Training	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	There are no risks associated with training and preparation beyond those of attending the site. Please refer to the overall College Risk Assessment.	Yes	Testing staff have been identified and trained, including volunteers	<p>All staff who will conduct LFD testing have completed the online NHS Test and Trace training</p> <p>An onsite run through is carried out on the first day of testing for each new member of staff or volunteer</p>
Testing	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	<p>All persons involved have a risk of covid-19. Symptoms include, fever, cough, breathing difficulties.</p> <p>Measures listed in this row are particular mitigating factors.</p>	Yes	Testing staff have been identified and trained, including volunteers; PPE has been provided (see below)	<p>Symptoms. All subjects are to be advised in advance not to attend if they have any symptoms of COVID 19, or live with someone who is showing symptoms of COVID 19 (including a fever and/or new persistent cough) or if they have returned within 14 days from a part of the world affected by the virus or have been in close contact with someone who is displaying symptoms.</p> <p>Prominent signage reminding attending subjects of the above to be displayed at the entrance to the building.</p>

				<p>Face coverings/masks to be worn by subjects at all times whilst on the premises except for brief lowering at time of swabbing.</p> <p>Compliance with wearing of face covering/mask of all subjects to be visually checked on arrival by reception / security staff.</p> <p>Hand hygiene: All subjects to use hand sanitiser provided on arrival & adherence to this enforced by reception staff.</p> <p>Social distancing: Two metre social distancing to be maintained between subjects with measured floor markings in place to ensure compliance in addition to verbal reminders if necessary from reception, queue management & sampling staff.</p> <p>A one-way flow of subjects through the building is to be initiated and maintained at all times. Compliance with this is to be ensured by queue management staff.</p> <p>Cleaning: Regular cleaning of the site including wipe down of all potential touchpoints in accordance with PHE guidance.</p> <p>Limited clutter-chairs only on request; no physical handing of documents to subjects except barcodes</p> <p>If a test is void, the subject will be retested on the same day</p> <p>All devices used for registration/ administration are cleaned between each use following contamination IPC measures carefully</p>
Extraction solution		Potential minor risk for handlers of extraction solution from exposure to: eye, skin, inhalation, and ingestion,	Yes	<p>These components do not have any hazard labels associated with them, and the manufacturer states that there are no hazards anticipated under conditions of use as described in other product literature.</p> <p>Due regard to the manufacturer's instructions for use.</p> <p>PPE: nitrile gloves; safety glasses with side shields to be worn at all times when handling the extraction solution. Impervious clothing to be worn to protect the body from splashes or spillages.</p> <p>Environmental: the product is not to enter drains</p> <p>Spillages: surfaces which the solution has been spilt on wiped, and cleaning material disposed of in line with waste disposal procedures</p>

					<p>If expired, the solution will not be used.</p> <p>Training to be provided in handling potentially biohazardous samples, and good practice.</p>
Test Analysis	<p>COVID-19 Virus</p> <p>Biological Hazard</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>In this lockdown, students and staff will be tested twice-weekly (once if only attending one day per week). In essence, this is a screening exercise</p> <p>Staff and students who do not wish to be tested daily are encouraged to do so. If this view is maintained, or the subject is unable to be tested for any reason, they will not be tested.</p>	<p>Negative Lateral Flow Test Result</p> <p>The subject continues with normal activities until the next test is due.</p> <p>Positive Lateral Flow Test Result</p> <p>Follow the latest national guidance, and self-isolate for ten days from the date of the test (at present, there is no requirement for a confirmatory PCR test).</p>
Inconclusive or inaccurate result	Risk of transmission if subject is positive	Risk to Year Group bubble and associated staff of transmission	<p>Yes</p>	Subjects are called for a retest in the event of an inconclusive result. In practice, this will be on the same day.	<p>The wider College has a full range of covid-security measures (see overall Risk Assessment).</p> <p>Mitigation against inaccurate results is twice-weekly testing.</p>
Incorrect result communication	Wrong samples or miscoding of results	Low risk	<p>Yes</p>	Subjects are called for a retest as soon as error has been identified. In practice, this will be on the same day.	<p>2 identical barcodes are provided to subject at check in</p> <p>The subject registers their details to a unique ID barcode before conducting the test</p> <p>Barcodes are attached by trained staff at the sample collection bay</p> <p>Barcodes are checked for congruence at the analysis station and applied to Lateral Flow Device at this station</p>
Damaged barcode, lost LFD, failed scan of barcode	Orphaned record on registration portal No result communicated to individual	Low risk	<p>Yes</p>	Subjects are called for a retest as soon as error has been identified. In practice, this will be on the same day.	

PPE Requirements	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard		Yes	All testing staff wear appropriate PPE: disposable gloves disposable plastic apron surgical, fluid resistant face mask PPE is disposed of in accordance with government guidance (link below)	
Storage	COVID-19 Virus Biological Hazard	Risk to anyone handling extraction solution (see above).	Yes	Secure Storage Facilities have been identified for all testing kits, solution and cartridges at the correct temperatures.	Kits can be stored at room temperature: Extraction solution is stored at 2-30o C Test cartridges are stored at 2-30o C
Ordering and Supply		Unmet orders or supply shortages could reduce the amount of testing possible	Yes	Weekly "stock-check" undertaken to maintain levels of testing kit and PPE at high levels	Fall-back position is to meet minimum government requirements of twice-weekly testing for staff only (and initial screening of returning students) during any temporary interruption.
Student Anxiety and Support		Anxiety and distress to student Student fails to take test	Yes, and others	College has good knowledge of students including medical information and mental health issues; established pastoral support systems, and staff on site	Students can refuse to be tested Parents may attend to support their child

Further guidance which is observed in the implementation of this Risk Assessment:

[guidance on PPE \(GOV.UK\)](#). Additional guidance on [Disposal of PPE- see Gov guidance \(cleaning\)](#)

[Personal hygiene- hand washing etc before and afterwards](#)- See HSE guidance

Expiry dates of PPE and checking these <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>