

Asymptomatic Testing Policy

March 2021



Asymptomatic Testing Policy Policy Statement:

We promote the good health of all children attending our setting and we have created this policy to outline our procedure for Asymptomatic Testing of the staff team that further minimises the risk of staff and children contracting Coronavirus (COVID 19).

This policy should be used in conjunction with our COVID-19 Policy, which sets out the System of Controls, that should be adopted across our setting.

The purpose of asymptomatic testing is to identify members of our team who test positive for COVID-19, but do not present symptoms. By identifying asymptomatic positive cases and allowing them to self-isolate will reduce the spread of the virus and reduce the risk of other team members or children catching COVID-19.

The purpose of asymptomatic testing is not to test members of our team who have symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms of COVID-19 are displayed team members will be expected to follow government guidelines, isolate and get tested.

- Asymptomatic testing does not remove the requirement to follow the System of Controls contained within our COVID-19 Policy.
- Asymptomatic testing does not remove the requirement for the team to follow government guidance in place in the wider community, such as social distancing.
- Team members will be asked to undertake a Lateral Flow Test at home, twice a week. If this is not possible, they will be asked to attend a local test centre.
- Testing is not compulsory for any of our team members.

Risk Reduction

Asymptomatic testing will reduce the risk of COVID-19 cases becoming prevalent in our setting, but it will not eliminate the risk completely. There is still a possibility that someone will catch COVID-19. This is because:

- The test is not 100% accurate and may miss cases where the viral load is low.
- The test may not be administered correctly and not record an accurate result.
- The test is only representative of a moment in time and COVID-19 antibodies may present themselves on a day when the test is not undertaken.

As a result, we will continue to follow the system of controls within our COVID-19 Policy.

Lateral Flow Antigen Tests –

Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test. The testing involves the processing of nasal and throat samples with a Lateral Flow Device. There is a sensitivity of 76.8% for all PCR individuals, but detects over 95% of individuals with a high viral load.

Procedure

The below procedure will be followed to establish asymptomatic testing across our setting.

1. Test Population

Team members who have not had COVID-19 within the last three months will be offered access to Asymptomatic Testing. Team members who have tested positive to COVID-19 within the last three months will not be offered access to Asymptomatic Testing as there is a very high risk that the individual will give a false positive.

2. Engaging and Training the team:

A webpage has been set up for the team to access, which contains all the information they need to start performing asymptomatic testing. The webpage explains the process and timings of the testing and provides instructions and a video on how to perform the lateral flow test. We have also asked the team for consent to participate in the testing. Testing is not compulsory for the team.

3. Access to Testing

The team are being offered the opportunity to perform an Asymptomatic Test twice a week until 31st May 2021, through home test kits. This date is subject to review. If the team consent to being tested, they will be provided with a Test Kit and asked to complete the online training materials. They will then be expected to undertake the Lateral Flow Tests twice a week – once before the new week (Sunday evening) and the second 2-3 days later (Wednesday evening). Where home test kits are not available team members will be asked to attend a local test centre for testing.

4. Testing Process and Result Notification

The team will be expected to follow the below process when self-administering the test. If they attend a test site the process may be different, but they will be given instructions specific to the test site they attend.

a. Read the instructions – team members will read the instructions for the test kit they receive. This is important as instructions may vary between test kits.

b. Prepare buffer solution – team member will prepare a test tube with the required amount of buffer solution contained within it.

c. Swab – team members will complete a self-administered throat and nasal swab.

d. Swab into buffer solution – they will then insert this into a buffer solution and leave it for the required amount of time.

e. Loading the sample – once the swab has been removed the sample can be loaded onto the Lateral Flow Device, taking care not to squeeze air bubbles onto the device. This will be left for the required amount of time.

f. Analyse – result will be analysed by the team member against manufacturer's directions and interpret the result as Negative, Positive, or Invalid.

g. Log Result – team members are then asked to log the result with the NHS following this link <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and if the result is positive, they will also be expected to notify the Setting as well by telephone.

Results

All results must be logged with the NHS following this link <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Negative Result – if the result is negative, they must log the result following the NHS link and can continue to attend work in line with agreed hours.

Positive Result – if the result is positive, they must log the result following the NHS link and inform the nursery straight away by telephone. They then must isolate in line with government guidelines and go for a PCR test as soon as possible to confirm the result.

Invalid Result – if the result is invalid team member should undertake the test again.

Reporting a problem with the Test Kit

If a team member has a problem with their test kit they must report that problem to the Setting on sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk as well as reporting this online at https://nhstt.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqskiabRU9HTFkOA

Examples of issues with Test Kits include, but are not limited to:

- Material Break (if something breaks during use, i.e. the swab)
- Detachment of device component (e.g. if the head of the swab detaches)
- Component Missing (if something in the kit is missing)
- Leaks
- Packaging problem
- False negative / false positive results
- Unable to obtain a reading (failure of the control line or if the user is not able to read the result)
- Failure to obtain sample
- Inadequate instructions
- Device handling problem Depending on the incident the setting may also report these to integrator@dhsc.gov.uk by COP every Friday.

Mandatory MHRA Reporting

We are required monthly to complete a Lessons Learned form to assist the capture of insights from the Asymptomatic Testing we are performing.

Unused Test Kits

If there are unused Test Kits, when the Lateral Flow Testing stops team members are required to return these to the nursery so they can be returned to DHSC – the management team will email control@dhsc.gov.uk to co-ordinate return of unused tests.

This policy was adopted by Swanmore pre-school *(name of provider)*

On 29th October 2021 *(date)*

Date to be reviewed 28th October 2022 *(date)*

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory Mrs S Hiscock

Role of signatory Manager