How do I hear about my results?

If the test result is positive…

You will be contacted by your school principal.

If your child receives a positive result, they will need to go home and self-isolate for at least 10 days from the date of the test, along with all other members of the household.

The guidance for self-isolation following a positive saliva LAMP test is as follows:

- *If the person has symptoms of COVID-19 – they need to self-isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started.*
- *If they have not had symptoms – self-isolate for 10 days from when they had the test.*
- *If they get symptoms while self-isolating – the 10 days of self-isolation will restart from when symptoms started.*
- *Everyone in the household and other close contacts will also need to self-isolate for at least 10 days.*

**Your details will be passed to the Public Health Agency Contact Tracing Service who will ring you to discuss your close contacts outside of school.*

If the test result is negative…

You will **NOT be contacted.*

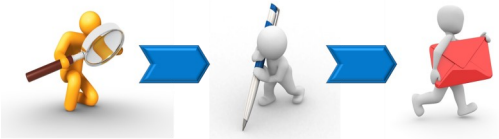
**School continues as normal unless you have been identified as a close contact by your Principal. If you are a close contact, you will have to isolate for 10 days.*

**Continue to follow all PHA guidelines at all times.*

What do I do next?

Taking part in the testing programme is voluntary. The more people who take part the better the programme will be. In the coming days, your school will issue consent forms.

1. *Read the information and decide if you want to take part.*
2. *Read and sign the consent form to take part in the testing programme.*
3. *Give the signed consent form back to your school.*



What happens then?

The programme will begin in February 2021.

Each school will introduce testing for those who wish to take part.

The testing kits will be delivered to your school during February.

When your school is ready, they will give a testing kit to those that are taking part.

Staff can complete the test in school. Return the kit to the collection point.

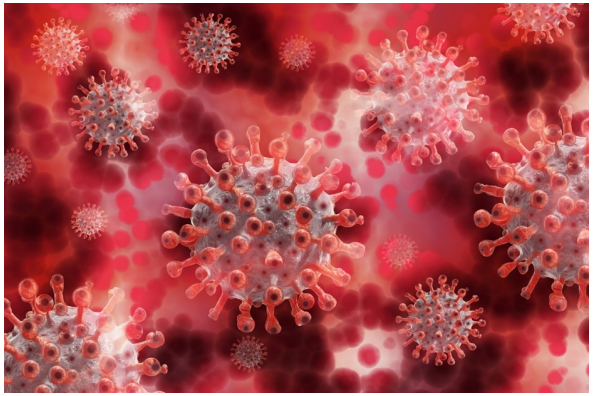
The child brings the testing kit home. Use the test kit the next morning before eating, drinking or brushing teeth. Bring the test kit back to school.

NI Special Schools

COVID-19 LAMP Testing Programme

Information for Parents & Staff

15th February 2021



Education Authority

Public Health Agency

Department of Education

Queen's University Belfast

Department of Health

Introduction to the Testing Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruption to every Special School in Northern Ireland over the past year.

Special Schools continue to provide face to face teaching for all pupils at this time.

A programme of rapid testing for COVID-19 is now being offered to all Special School staff and pupils.

This programme will begin during February and run until June 2021

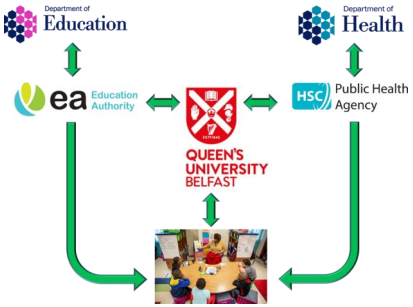
You can read more detailed information at this link:
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clinical-evaluation-confirms-accuracy-of-lamp-test

Who is organising the testing programme?

This testing programme is sponsored by the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

The Education Authority and the Public Health Agency are working in partnership with Queen's University, Belfast to deliver the testing programme to all special schools.

A group of principals from the Special Schools Leadership Group, are working together to design the programme and representing the views of the schools in the programme



What is a LAMP Test?

LAMP is a shortened form for the full name of the test, which is Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification.

It is an alternative test to PCR and Lateral Flow tests which you may also have heard about in the media.

The test works by copying the viral RNA many times and detecting if COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is present. It can provide a result within a few hours.

Who will get tested?

The test programme will include all pupils and staff working in Special Schools. This means tests will be offered to all pupils, and all staff working within a special school, including teaching, support staff, catering, admin and transport.

All students and staff members will be offered a test once a week.
You can volunteer to be part of this programme—you do not have to take part.

How do I get a sample?

All participating staff and students will be given a weekly testing kit. Each kit will have a unique code so you can not be identified beyond your school.

Spit ➲ Seal ➲ Submit

Staff—*On testing day each week, spit saliva into the test tube. If possible, take* your sample after waking and before you eat or brush you teeth. Do not provide a sample within 30mins of eating or drinking. *Close it, then seal it inside two plastic bags and submit this to the collection point in your school.*

Students—*Pupils will bring home a testing kit once a week. If possible, take* your sample after waking and before you eat or brush you teeth. Do not provide a sample within 30mins of eating or drinking. *Some pupils will be able to spit saliva into the test tube. For others, an adult may need to help them (watch the video for guidance). When done, close the test tube, seal it inside two plastic bags and return this to the collection point in your school.*

An EA bus will collect all samples that day and bring them to Queen's University laboratory for testing.