

**Public Health, North Yorkshire**

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11 March 2021

Dear North Yorkshire Families

**TWICE-WEEKLY HOME TESTING FOR COVID-19**

I am delighted that children and young people across North Yorkshire are returning to schools and colleges from this week. It has been a difficult few months for many people, and I would like to thank all of you for supporting your children throughout this last lockdown period.

Covid-19 rates in North Yorkshire have been falling steadily over the last month or so, which is very encouraging. However, infection rates are still relatively high and we must continue to do all we can to keep the numbers dropping.

Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is therefore important to ensure each Covid-19 case is found as quickly and easily as possible. Reducing the spread of the virus is key to avoiding a potential return of tough restrictions and school closures.

All members of households living with primary and secondary school age children as well as college students, including those in their childcare and support bubbles, should complete LFD (lateral flow device) tests at home, twice a week. This is in addition to the standard key preventative measures of 'Hands, Face, and Space'. For further information please visit:

- Childcare and support bubbles: [Visit website link](#)
- Lateral Flow home testing: [Visit website link](#)

**Who is eligible for testing?**

LFD testing is for people without symptoms and is available to the following people as schools and colleges reopen:

- Those who live in households, as well as in childcare and support bubbles, of primary and secondary-age pupils and college students
- Those who live in households, as well as in childcare and support bubbles, of staff of primary and secondary schools and colleges

### Where are the tests available from?

- Pupils, students and staff working in schools will be provided with testing kits by their school. Testing will take place twice a week and primary school pupils will not be asked to test at this time.
- Members of households who live with primary school, secondary school and college students, as well as those who are part of a childcare or support bubble of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges, can get their tests in one of the following ways:
  1. through their employer if they offer testing to employees (employers can register for rapid testing here [View website link](#))
  2. by collecting LFD testing kits from a local collection point (see below for details in your area), or
  3. by ordering LFD testing kits online (Please only use the online order service if you cannot get a test through your workplace or by collecting from a local collection point. This will free up home delivery for those who need it most).

Anyone 18 or over can collect home testing kits from the local collection point and you can collect two packs at a time, each pack containing seven tests.

### What does home testing involve?

- Using the provided LFD home testing kits, you will test yourself twice a week (every 3 or 4 days). Instructions are provided with the kits.
- You need to report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day as you take your test. You can report your result online or by calling 119.

### What to do following a positive result?

- Self-isolate immediately,
- get a PCR test to confirm the result (you can book a test here: [View website link](#)),
- follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection [View website link](#), and
- pupils, students and staff should also tell their school or college if they test positive.

### Collection sites

LFD testing kits can be collected between 1pm and 7pm from the following testing sites in North Yorkshire:

- **Harrogate** - Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB
- **Scarborough** - William Street Car Park, Scarborough. YO12 7PL
- **Northallerton** – The Forum, Bullamore Road, Northallerton, DL6 1LP
- **Selby** – Portholme Crescent Car Park, Selby, YO8 4YR
- **Skipton** - Cavendish Street Car Park, Skipton, BD23 1RP

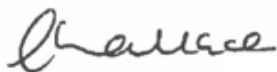
If you don't live within reasonable travelling distance of one of these sites, you can order kits online: [View website link](#)

As a result of the expansion of asymptomatic testing, symptomatic PCR testing at the five testing sites listed above will only be available in the morning from 8am to 12pm, and appointments need to be booked online or by calling 119. People wanting to book an appointment for the afternoon will find no appointments available and may be directed to another site in a different location. Should this happen, if people prefer to wait and not travel elsewhere, they are encouraged to please try book again (later in the day, or early evening), for an appointment that comes available for the following morning. There is also the option to book a PCR home test kit to be delivered to your door. <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/book-coronavirus-covid-19-test-if-youve-got-symptoms>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for playing your part to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 across North Yorkshire. In continuing to follow Public Health guidance, we can look forward to easing of restrictions with each step of the roadmap out of lockdown.

Keep going North Yorkshire!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Louise Wallace  
Director of Public Health  
NYCC