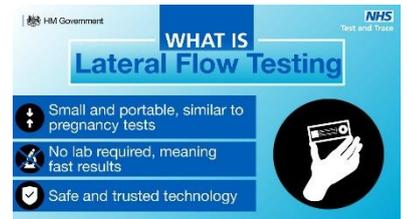


COVID-19 UPDATE: Issue 74

15th March 2021

...Testing the Households of School Pupils...



Dear Chairman, Councillors, Clerks & Affiliates

About 1 in 3 people who have contracted Covid-19 won't display any symptoms, while still being able to pass it to other people they come into contact with. Consequently, regular testing of those people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and to protect our loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help better protect one another. In an effort to increase the levels of testing for people connected to the education system, the government have therefore made twice-weekly testing kits available for people without symptoms.

Free Rapid Lateral Flow Tests Are Available For:

- Secondary school pupils and college students
- Staff of primary and secondary schools, nurseries and colleges
- Households, childcare and support bubbles of nursery children, primary and secondary-age pupils and college students
- Households, childcare and support bubbles of staff of nurseries, primary and secondary schools, and colleges

To find out more about this initiative, what the eligibility requirements are and how you take the test, please visit the rapid lateral flow test [guidance page](#). It provides details about testing for households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff from the Department of Health & Social Care.

To Order Your Free Test Kit Visit:

- <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Essex County Council have issued a press release explaining what this important development in mass testing means for the households of school pupils. To read this message from the Director of Public Health in Essex, Dr Mike Gogarty and the Director of Education, Clare Kershaw then please see the attached PDF bulletin.

For information on the current status Covid-19 rules and restrictions visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Stay safe and look after yourselves.

With kind regards,

Eli Haines

Communications Officer

EALC, 42B High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1AH

Tel: 01371 879722

www.ealc.gov.uk

Working Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9am – 5pm

Friday: 8:30am – 4pm

