

Asymptomatic Testing (Lateral Flow Tests)

There are different ways to get a test for school staff, pupils, and members of their households, childcare and support bubbles who do not have symptoms of coronavirus.

Note that there is no routine lateral flow testing proposed for primary aged pupils either in school or at home.

<p>Primary or secondary school staff</p>	<p>Upon returning to school, teaching and non-teaching staff of primary and secondary schools should take twice-weekly tests using a home test kit provided by their school. This includes permanent, temporary and voluntary school staff and cleaning/catering staff.</p>
<p>Secondary school aged pupils</p>	<p>Upon returning to school, secondary school pupils will be asked to take their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first 3 tests at their place of study under the supervision of a trained operator • fourth test themselves using a home test kit <p>Pupils will then continue taking twice-weekly tests using a home test kit provided by their school. Pupils must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone, as set out in the home test kit instructions.</p>
<p>Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils</p>	<p>From 1 March 2021, members of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil can get a twice-weekly test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through their employer if they offer testing to employees • at a local test site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City sites ○ County sites • by collecting a home test kit from a test site • by ordering a home test kit online: https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Flowcharts

I have created a further set of two lateral flowcharts which cover the procedure to take for the additional categories of individuals above.

Unlike for members of staff where they test positive with the Lateral flow test and we immediately keep home the identified close contacts in the school, for **secondary age** pupil positive Lateral Flow Tests, the self-isolation of close contacts **in the school** only commence when a subsequent positive PCR is received. This position will be kept under review.

When a household member tests positive with a lateral flow test, the member of staff or pupil in the same household should self-isolate immediately until the results of the confirmatory PCR test have been received.

The staff lateral flowchart has just been tweaked so that it's clear that it is for staff only.

Household Self-isolation Periods

I've attached a diagram that I've created that shows an example of household self-isolation periods when a child is sent home to self-isolate after being in close contact with a positive case in school.

Reminders:

- When someone develops symptoms all of their household members commence a 10 day self isolation
- Household members continue to self-isolate for the full 10 days even if they receive a negative PCR test result during this time (this would also apply to a negative Lateral Flow Test result)
- A household member (sibling) can stop self-isolating and return to school after the initial 10 days if they have not displayed any symptoms, despite a second person in the household testing positive and is self-isolating,

If there are any questions you have in any individual circumstances, then please contact me. There will always be at least one example that the guidance doesn't cover.

Pregnancy Questions

In the whole school risk assessment, it notes that pregnant staff over 28 weeks we need to "consider further precautions".

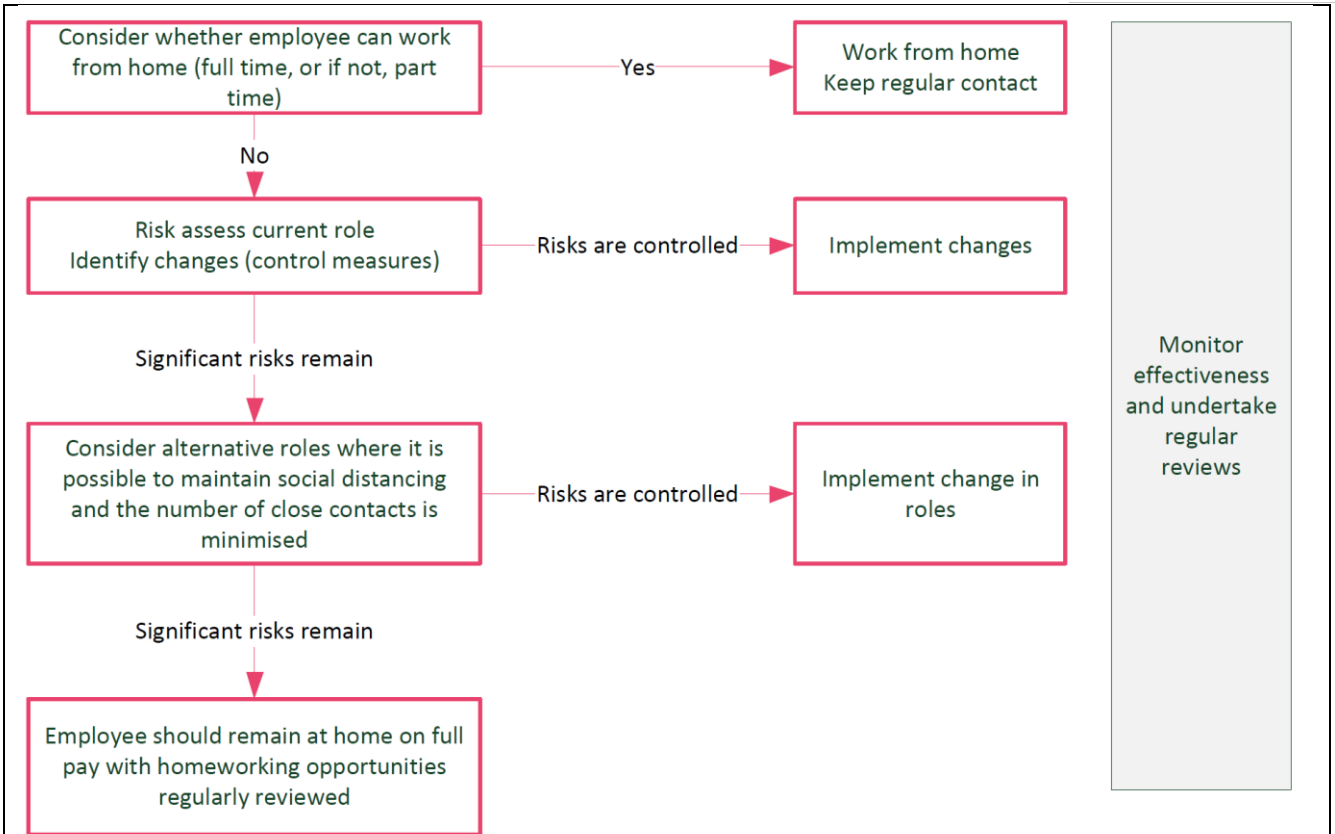
The main covid risk factors for anyone in school are:

- Number of contacts
- The time spent with contacts
- The degree to which the individual can socially distance from pupils, including the need to handle them
- The pupils' and their own hygiene practices
- The classroom ventilation
- The activities (e.g. PE, singing)

In addition to any added health risks to pregnant staff, they currently can't be vaccinated.

The risk assessment process hasn't changed when the schools reopen fully next week but due to more pupils being in school resulting in fewer opportunities to work from home and practices in the school changing, all existing individual risk assessments must be reviewed.

The process is shown in the diagram below from the pregnancy covid risk assessment:



Therefore, the first question is whether they can work from home either part time or full time, acknowledging that this brings isolation risks that need to be managed. If not, look whether their role needs temporarily amending – this will dependant on their position and other factors.

Schools could investigate whether:

- The number of contacts (pupils) can be reduced (e.g. lead small groups of pupils)
- Change to working with children who they can more easily socially distance from (and continue to be mindful to socially distance from other members of staff and parents)
- Consider working with older children and/or those without hygiene concerns
- Moving to another classroom where there is better ventilation (and taking all opportunities to teach outside)

If it is deemed that the risks are unacceptable after considering any possible changes, then the member of staff should remain at home on full pay, and their work at home opportunities revisited.