



# WALTON HIGH

*Leading Learning*

Walnut Tree Campus: Fyfield Barrow Milton Keynes MK7 7WH

Brooklands Campus: Fen Street Milton Keynes MK10 7HE

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[www.waltonhigh.org.uk](http://www.waltonhigh.org.uk)



Executive Principal: Michelle Currie  
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Ayser Asif  
Business Manager: Sukh Singh

17 December 2020

## COVID-19 Update 27

Dear Parents

### Home testing kits

I hope you have all had an opportunity to read the letter sent yesterday on behalf of the local Director of Public Health, Vicky Head, and taken up the offer of a home testing kit for everyone in your family. As the data in [Annex A](#) shows, the virus is spreading rapidly in Milton Keynes and the more we can do collectively to bring it under control the better for everyone.

I understand that some parents experienced difficulty with the website when trying to book tests for their family. It is important to follow the guidance set out on page three of Ms Head's letter. Those that have done so do not appear to have experienced any problems.

### Testing in schools

You may have seen reports in the media that the Government plans to enable schools to set up testing stations from January. The proposal aims to:

1. Test secondary school staff on a weekly basis
2. Test close contacts of a positive case on a daily basis for seven school days to remove the need to self-isolate. This is known as serial testing.

Participation in the programme is optional for both staff and students. If a person declines to take part and are identified as a close contact of a positive case, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days instead.

As is often the case, politicians make announcements and give the impression that this is all very straight forward and will be taking place in all secondary schools from the beginning of the January. **This is not the case.** It is our understanding that the equipment needed will be delivered to schools in a phased way. In addition, as you will see from [Annex B](#) (which is a series of extracts from the Handbook sent to schools), a lot of work will need to take place before this is up and running. As Walton High employs over 260 staff, we do not have the spare capacity to absorb this work on top of the additional workload already created by managing the school's response to COVID-19. This means additional staff will need to be recruited, DBS checked and trained. We therefore cannot see this being fully in place before February half term.

Another concern we have is that the Department for Education has stated it will reimburse "reasonable costs for additional workforce". There is no guarantee that this will be honoured as it also stated it would cover the costs of schools making their premises Covid secure over the summer, yet there was a shortfall of over £44,000 in the money Walton High received. This has put yet more pressure on the school's already overstretched budget.

As we have done throughout, we will keep parents fully informed of how we will implement this latest Government directive so there is no need to contact the school. However, I would like to reassure parents that no student will be tested without consent.

**Just because you may, doesn't mean you should**

Although the current rules covering the festive season would allow me to visit my 89-year-old mother in London, it does not mean it is wise to do so given the risks. That is why some months ago I advised her that I would not be visiting so we can meet up later in the year after she has received her vaccinations and transmission rates have fallen. Sometimes it is best to wait.

Whatever your plans are for the holiday, please keep your family and friends safe as we all bid a fond farewell to 2020 and look forward to a brighter 2021.

Kind regards



Michelle Currie  
Executive Principal



# Annex A

Milton Keynes: 16 December 2020

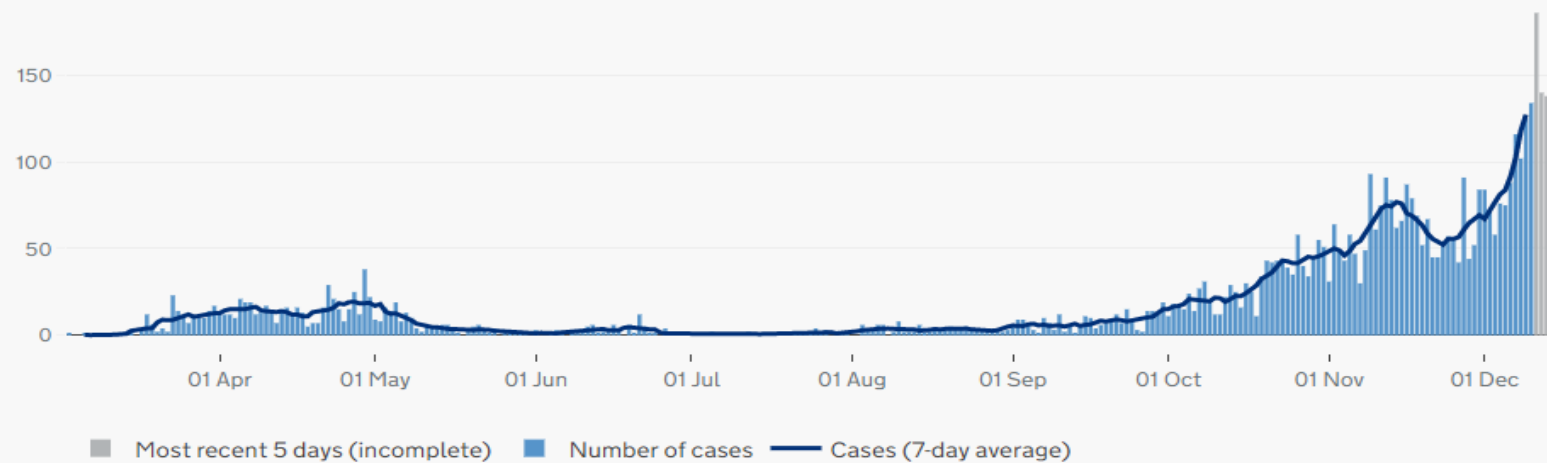
## People tested positive

Daily	Total
164	5,475

### Cases by specimen date

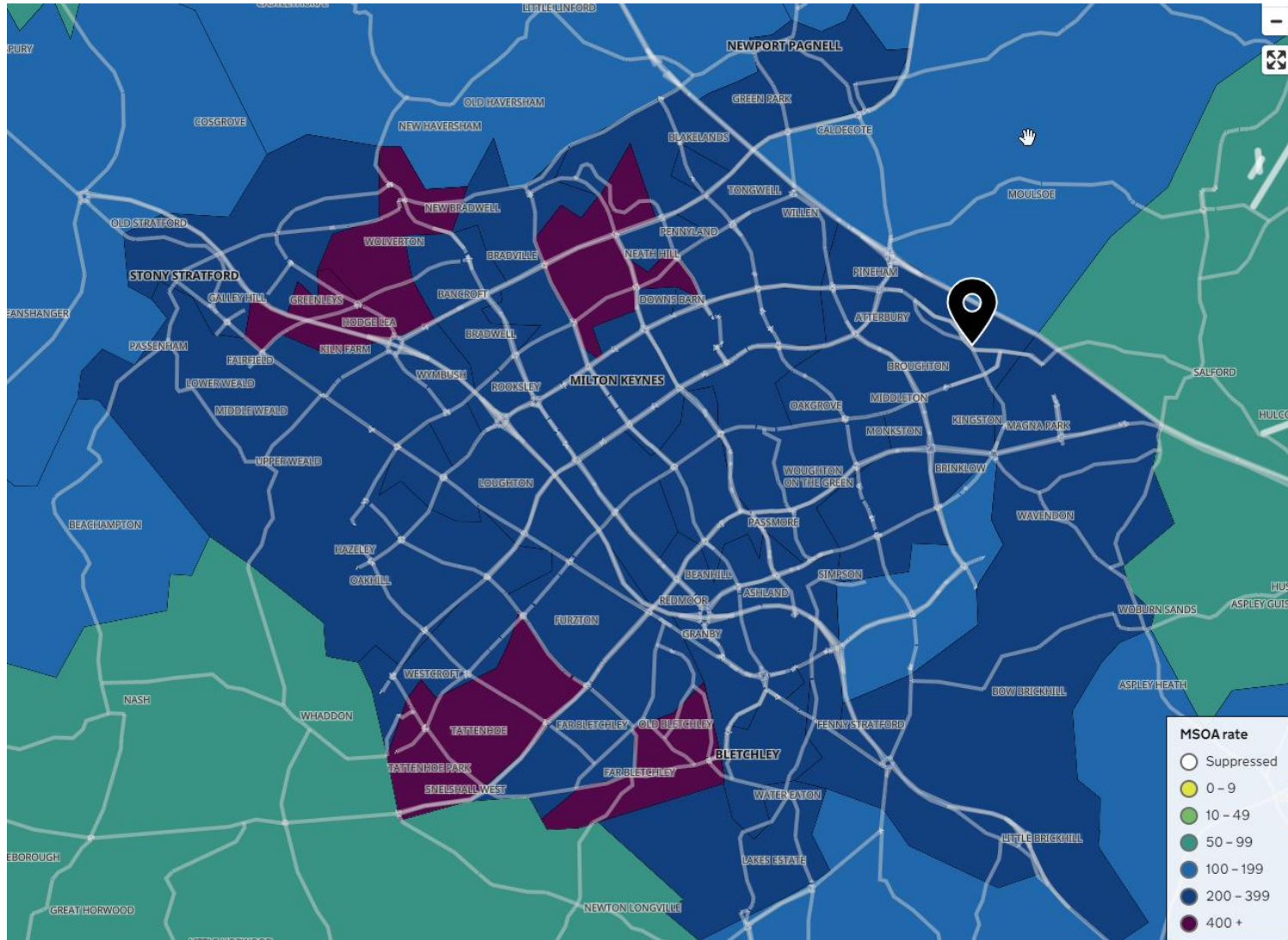
Number of people with at least one positive COVID-19 test result (either lab-reported or lateral flow device), by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test. The most recent 5 days' data, highlighted in grey, are incomplete.

Daily Cumulative Data About



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#### Cases

### People tested positive in Milton Keynes

Latest data at **local authority (upper tier)** level provided on 16 December 2020

Daily  
**164**

Last 7 days  
**1,008** ↑ 465 (85.6%)

▶ Rate per 100k resident population: **306.5**

[All cases data in Milton Keynes](#)  
Easy-read report for Milton Keynes

#### Deaths

### Deaths within 28 days of positive test in Milton Keynes

Latest data at **local authority (upper tier)** level provided on 16 December 2020

Daily  
**6**

Last 7 days  
**16** ↑ 4 (33.3%)

[All deaths data in Milton Keynes](#)  
Easy-read report for Milton Keynes

#### Healthcare

### Patients admitted in East of England

Latest data at **healthcare region** level provided on 13 December 2020

Daily  
**159**

Last 7 days  
**1,153** ↑ 333 (40.6%)

▶ Rate per 100k resident population: **17.8**

[All healthcare data in East of England](#)  
Easy-read report for East of England



## Annex B

# Staff and pupil testing – quick, safe, easy

Staff and pupils will be tested using validated Lateral Flow Antigen tests

Up to **a third of individuals who test positive for coronavirus have no symptoms** at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. That is why the testing of people without symptoms is so important. Identifying those who unknowingly have the virus will save lives. This is known as **'mass testing'**.

By **testing staff once a week** we will be helping to keep schools and colleges as safe as we can.

We will also be able to **keep more teachers, support staff and pupils in education**. Previously, close contacts had to isolate if one student or staff member tested positive. Now, those who are close contacts can return to school/college if they agree to be tested once a day in the morning – known as **'serial testing'**.

Both staff and pupils will be eligible for serial testing in the initial phase, though only staff will be eligible initially for weekly testing.

### Quick

Swabbing and processing of these tests will be conducted at a dedicated testing site in school / college **once a week** either by trained personnel or as a self-test with supervision from trained personnel, with **results in around 30 minutes**.

### Safe

These tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.8% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load. Hence, the need to test frequently.

When used in combination with other measures such as PPE, washing hands regularly and social distancing, these tests will enable people to live their lives in as normal a way as possible.

Lateral flow antigen tests detect the presence or absence of coronavirus by applying a swab or saliva sample to the device's absorbent pad.

### Easy

Lateral flow devices **do not require a laboratory** to process the test. The devices are designed to be intuitive and require minimal training to operate.



## Lateral Flow Testing



Accessible and easy to use



No lab required, with fast results



Safe technology



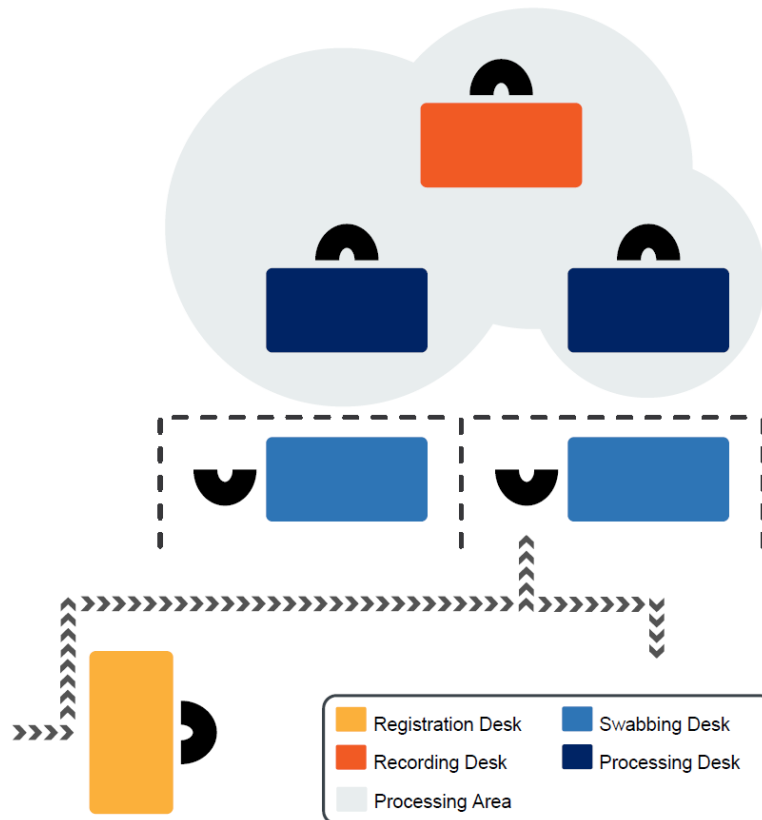
Note: graphics on this page have been developed to communicate with parents and students. For older students there is an animated video here: <https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1328387524490911745?s=20>

There are also resources available for schools / colleges to talk to young people about COVID and mass testing at [www.storicise.com](http://www.storicise.com)

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# Setting up your testing site

Testing sites can be set up in spaces of varying sizes provided they meet some key layout requirements



## Key Layout Requirements

- Test site flooring must be **non-porous**
- Test site must be **well lit** and have **good airflow**
- **Registration desk** at the first point where test subject would enter the Test site
- **One-way direction of travel** for test subjects. If not possible, enough room should be provided for test subjects to exit room whilst maintaining social distance
- Test subject chair in the swabbing bay should be **minimum of 2m apart**
- Each **swabbing desk must have a processing desk** close by – no more than 1m away. **Recording desk** to be located close by.
- Test subjects **must not enter area processing area**. This should be demarcated.
- **Clear division between swabbing and processing area**. This should be demarcated. Test subjects must not enter the processing area
- **Further details** of how to set up your testing area will be made available via the webinars

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# Workforce Profiles

Schools and colleges will need to consider the following roles. More than one role can be taken on by one person.



## Quality Lead/ Team Leader

Responsible for the overall on-site operations at the test site, including day-to-day workforce management. Ensure quality assurance, incidents, risks mitigation across the testing service

## Test Assistant

Provides guidance and supervision to subjects on swabbing as requested. Collects completed swabs and pass them to the Processing Operatives. Ensures cleaning of swabbing bays.

## Processor

Prepares test sample for analysis, conducts processing of LFT and interprets result. Provides results to Results Recorder. Ensures cleaning of processing bays.

## COVID-19 Coordinator

Sign-off and schedules testing activities; ensuring communications and consents are actioned; management of positive cases as per school guidelines.

## Registration Assistant

Responsible for ensuring subjects have registered and distributing test kits on arrival. Ensures orderly entry of subjects onto the testing site.

## Results Recorder

Collates results from Processing Operatives and uploads to digital solution

## Cleaner

Cleans the testing bays, and ensures waste is correctly disposed of, including working with clinical waste provider to dispose of clinical waste



# Workforce

This will depend on how much space you have, how many people are supporting the process, and how many tests you need to do.

An example workforce model is illustrated below – more than one role could be taken on by one person – e.g. registration assistant and results recorder could be done by same individual.

- The throughput of tests is estimated at **11-13 tests per bay per hour**
- In the first table this is based on testing **100 people through 3 bays**
- The second table shows average close contact workforce assuming **30 people need to be tested per day**

## Routine Testing Workforce

Number of subjects	Number of bays	Duration of Testing	Total Workforce	Quality Lead/Team Leader	Test Assistant	Processor	COVID-19 Coordinator	Registration Assistant	Results Recorder	Cleaner
100	3	3h	9	1	1	3	1	1	1	1

## Close Contact Workforce

Number of subjects	Number of bays	Duration of Testing	Total Workforce	Quality Lead/registration/recorder	Test Assistant/Cleaner	Processor/Coordinator
30	3	1h	5	1	1	3

# Finding a workforce

Schools and colleges may want to identify existing staff to support testing, and/or it may be that additional workforce will be required. Reasonable costs for additional workforce will be reimbursed.



## School/College Staff

- Schools/colleges may choose to use existing staff.



## School/college nurses

- Schools/colleges may want to use medical staff. Examples: school nurses, retired nurses



## Volunteers

- Schools/colleges may want to draw on volunteers
- Examples include parents, retired teachers, Red Cross, St John's Ambulance and community organisations



## Temporary Staff

- Schools/college may want to hire temporary staff. Examples: agency and contract workers