

# Face coverings and testing guidance in primary schools

The [schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance](#) provides information on the use of face coverings and asymptomatic testing in primary schools from Monday 8 March. The guidance is clear that face coverings are only necessary for pupils in year 7 and above.

A Department for Education spokesperson has said:

**“Children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings when they return to school from 8 March.”**

The guidance on asymptomatic testing confirms that staff in primary schools will continue to test with Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) twice a week at home. **Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs.**

Public Health England has advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Primary age pupils may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab. We will review this approach in the light of any emerging evidence.

All primary school pupils are expected to return to school on Monday 8 March.

Department for Education – Guidance 26.2.2021

