

# Carcinogen Ethylene Oxide Used in Covid PCR and LFT Swab Tests

Molly Kingsley made this Freedom of Information request to Department for Education

By [Molly Kingsley](#)

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Theme: [Science and Medicine](#)

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*Dear Department for Education,*

*This request is in relation to the use of the Innova lateral flow test (the “LFT”) being used across schools in the UK.*

We are in receipt of correspondence from Innova confirming that the swab used in the LFTs is sterilised by ethylene oxide. **Given the known toxicity and potential carcinogenicity of ethylene oxide**, we are concerned by this.

Under the ‘Freedom of Information Act 2000’, we request disclosure of the following:

- information as to what, if any, independent tests have been carried out to **check for any residues of ethylene oxide on a random sample of swabs;**
- information as to what, if any, assessments have been conducted to ensure that **the invasive use of these swabs for children is safe?**

I understand that, under the Act, I am entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request.

Some parts of the request may be easier to answer than others. Should this be the case, I request that you release information as soon as possible as it becomes available. If my request is denied in whole, or in part, I ask that you justify all decisions to deny disclosure by reference to specific exemptions of the Act.

I will expect you to disclose all non-exempt material that is within the scope of this request. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

I would prefer to receive the information electronically at the email address submitted to you as part of this request.

Yours faithfully

Molly Kingsley,  
UsforThem

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