



Update on twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students

Dear parent/carer,

As you are aware, this week students have commenced testing for COVID-19 at home using the COVID-19 'rapid testing kits' twice weekly. **It is vital that testing continues to be undertaken at home to keep your household safe and the wider community such as schools and places of work safe** and that **all results** are reported through the correct channels of communication, including to school.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family, friends and wider community safe. However improved the COVID-19 situation appears, it is not yet over and we need to take sensible measures for some time yet.

We will be sending home more COVID-19 'rapid testing kits' with your child from the week commencing March 29 so they can continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holiday. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart**.

A video on how to conduct the test can be used via the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

The 'Rapid home testing kits' do not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

[Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

Reporting results

Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to report the results to the school and the government. **It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void.** It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

It is important to keep a note of your child's results and share with the school using the following form https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/covid_results

Please use this link each time your report a result to school or if you have multiple children attending the senior school.

If anyone tests **positive, you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school.

You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at School/college).

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

Negative and void results should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

Positive results should be phoned in to reception on 01902 341230 with the following information: Name of your child, date they took the test, who they have been in close contact with. i.e face to face for 15 minutes or longer within a 1 metre proximity.

Positive results	Call 01902 341230 https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/covid_results
Negative and void results	https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/covid_results

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

I am strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests-gov-uk)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

Yours faithfully,