

11th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Government has recently announced that all secondary aged students will be offered COVID-19 tests to make the return to school safer for all.

Mass testing in school continues until Friday 19th March, therefore from Sunday 21st March, home testing will begin.

Testing students at home

Students will be provided with home test kits on Friday 19th March.

We would like students to take their tests on Wednesday 24th March, then every Sunday and Wednesday, students should carry out their self-tests on the following dates:

- Test 1 – Sunday 21st March
- Test 2 – Wednesday 24th March
- Test 3 – Sunday 28th March
- Test 4 – Wednesday 31st March
- Test 5 – Sunday 4th April
- Test 6 – Wednesday 7th April

If your child's test is negative they come to school; a positive result will mean students and their families must self-isolate for 10 days.

All results must be reported to NHS Test and Trace, with the school informed of all positive and void results (further guidance on this is shown below).

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive two packs of three tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. Unfortunately, some test kits have an old version of the leaflet included in the kit box. With over 3,400 test kits to distribute, it has not been possible for the school to remove the incorrect leaflet. The most up-to-date instructions will be handed separately to your child when they receive their test kits. You will need to ensure the correct Instructions for Use (with a plain blue cover, and dated 15 January 2021 v 1.3.2 or v1.3.3 on the last page of the printed instructions) are used.



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Taking the test

Students should take the test, on the evenings of the dates above. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test, the link to which is in the *Participant Guide - An Introduction to Rapid Self-Testing for COVID-19* attached to this email.

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).

Please remember that this testing process does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines at a testing site.

What should you do after the test?

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

If anyone tests positive, you, your household, and any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. A confirmatory PCR test should be ordered for the person who tested positive.

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.

Reporting test results

The result of each test (negative, positive or void) needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

You will also need to tell the school the result but **only if it is void or positive** – please do this via the following online [form https://tinyurl.com/JSOSHOMETESTS](https://tinyurl.com/JSOSHOMETESTS)

You will need the following information when completing the form:

- Full name of your child
- Year group
- Form Group (or form tutor's name if unsure)
- 11-character barcode of the test kit (shown on the test cartridge and contains letters and numbers)
- The date and time of the test
- The test outcome (positive or void)

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.

Please contact the school if you have any questions about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Heath', is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Jonathan Heath
Headteacher