

15 March 2021

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

Dear parent/carers,

Students will shortly be moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their first three supervised tests on site at the academy.

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 and friends safer.

We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child from w/c March 15 (once the home testing kits have been issued to your child's year group, you will receive a text message). Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before.**

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays.** We will be sending home extra kits for the Easter holiday before the term ends.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Further information on how to conduct the tests can be found in the COVID-19 Guidance section of the academy website.

Reporting results

It is really important that results of a 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 it with us by completing the google form on the academy website with the title 'Students Home Testing Results Recording Form' (<https://forms.gle/nGu1IvebVqex3VLV8>) or by phone on 01909 471010.

If your child's test is positive, please call the academy to let us know in addition to completing the form.

Positive COVID-19 test results during home testing

Once your child starts testing at home using lateral flow tests, positive results must be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test (as these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment).

If the PCR test confirms the test to be positive, then your child and the household must continue to self-isolate in line with government guidelines.

However, if the PCR test is negative, then your child does not need to self-isolate and can return to the academy as normal.

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](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) (www.gov.uk)

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

Yours sincerely



Mr G Dzoboku
Principal