

Wednesday 17th March 2021

RE: Covid-19 self-testing at home

Dear parents and carers,

We have almost completed the COVID-19 testing at school. We just have Year 8 and 9 who will be tested on Thursday. We have now completed 4,066 tests; we have recorded 2 positive results. The process has I am sure helped students to understand what is required and how to conduct a self-test. We are now moving to the next phase which is self-testing at home.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in school by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

[The Government has recently announced that](#) all secondary and college aged students will be offered tests to make the return to school safer for everyone.

Testing students at home

Students will be given test kits on either Wednesday 17th March or Thursday 18th March. If they are not in school on either of these days, they can collect them from their year group office base on Friday.

We would like them to take their tests before school on Monday and Thursday every week. This would mean taking the test either Sunday and Wednesday evening or on Monday and Thursday morning. Please be aware that it takes approximately 40 minutes to complete the test as you must wait 30 minutes to get the result. We would ask that students take the test on the following days:

Test 1: Sunday 21st or Monday 22nd March

Test 2: Wednesday 24th or Monday 25th March

Test 3: Sunday 11th April or Monday 12th April (Monday is a training day and this will be before they return to school after the Easter break)

We are expecting further deliveries of test kits and will distribute them as they arrive after the Easter break.

You will also need to inform the school the result of each test using the Microsoft Form <https://forms.office.com/r/gAaMxnnH2g>

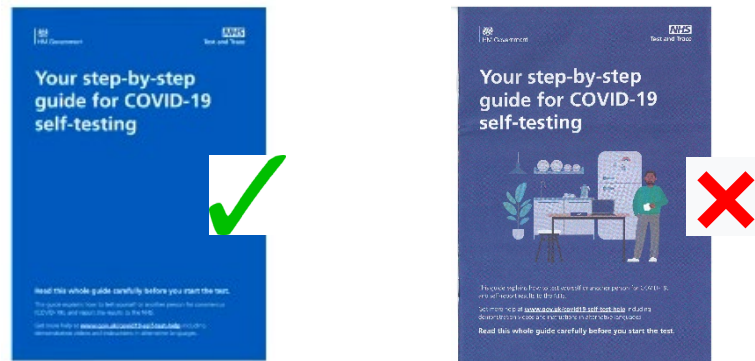
Secondary: 01604 669200 **Primary:** 01604 669210 **Website:** www.ccs.northants.sch.uk

Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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Tests are free of charge. Students will receive a pack of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. Please note that the leaflet provided in the box is incorrect and should be replaced by the one given out separately, the correct guide does not have a picture on the front, see below:



Make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before if needed. You need to report test results.

Taking the test

Students should take the test, before coming into school, twice a week. We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

[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.

We have also created a [dedicated webpage](#) which provides lots of useful resources, including a video from myself explaining the self-testing process, beneficial guides from the NHS and UK Government to explain the home testing process and links to both the GOV website and our MS Form where each self-test result will need to be registered.

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).

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

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 your School. Please report positive cases to vjewell@ccs.northants.sch.uk.

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).

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.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

You need to report each test result

The result of each test 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 of each test using Microsoft Form <https://forms.office.com/r/gAaMxnnH2g>

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. We will be giving out test kits to all students whether they were testing at school or not. You do not need to give consent to being tested at home as the act of doing the test is giving consent.

If you are concerned that you would not be able to test at home for whatever reason we will be providing a small-scale asymptomatic testing site. We would ask that you complete the MS Forms survey to inform us if you would like your child to be tested at school. We will be conducting tests on Monday and Thursday morning. Students will be given a time to arrive for their test and will be kept away from other students until the result is known. If you would like to register for this, please complete the form below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/d6FhqLYWyT>

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

Please contact Vikki Jewell, our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing using vjewell@ccs.northants.sch.uk. There are answers to frequently asked questions produced by the DfE at the end of this letter.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,



Mr G. Wakefield

Vice Principal

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Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice [Privacy Notice - for supply of contact details by schools and colleges for management of Covid-19 testing.pdf](#)

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school, regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the student to take the test if they need support.

Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** and please also tell the school.

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus

LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they 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 & Trace and your 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.

You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is 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.

What if my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

How do you report the result?

All results should be reported (even if it is positive, negative, or void) using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school using the [MS Form](#).

Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information.
- attend 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 (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19-test-finder)

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If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students.](#)

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your child's name
- your child's test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

You will also need to tell your child's school or college their test result.

Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice [Privacy Notice - for supply of contact details by schools and colleges for management of Covid-19 testing.pdf](#)

The form to share the results of the tests for school is here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gAaMxnnH2g>