

12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Testing Update

It has been truly delightful to welcome students back to school this week and to hear the corridors full of noise again. Students have shown a great maturity and understanding and have complied with Covid safety measures very well. The testing has gone very smoothly with the vast majority of students participating in the programme.

Next week, we will be issuing students with their home test kits. They will receive these after they have finished their third test in school and will need to sign receipt of the testing kit.

The enclosed leaflet and video link offer further advice about how to perform a home test and how to record results with NHS Test and Trace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=2>

We will also ask parents to share results with the school and will send out information on how to do this next week.

Close Contacts

A popular question currently being asked is “does a negative test result of either an LFD or a PCR mean that an individual can stop self- isolating after being identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case?”

If a person is identified as a close contact of a positive case, they must complete their isolation period even if they test negative themselves. This is because they may have been exposed to the virus and this could still be incubating in their system. A negative test result does not release them from the obligation to complete the isolation period.

Home testing

If someone tests positive following an unsupervised LFD test at home, they must immediately isolate and their close contacts are required to isolate too. The positive case is then required to complete a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test confirms a negative result and they have not been identified as a close contact, they are no longer required to self-isolate. Their close contacts can also return to normal activities at this point.

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Supervised testing in education settings

If a supervised LFD test taken at an educational setting is positive, there is no need to complete a confirmatory PCR test. The person testing positive and their close contacts are required to self-isolate immediately. However, if the guidance is ignored and a PCR test is completed with a negative result, the original positive LFD result still stands and the person and their close contacts are still required to complete their isolation period.

Please bear in mind that home testing is completely voluntary, but is part of the Government's wider plan to help reduce transmission in the community.

Best wishes



Helen Watts
Principal

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