

11 March 2021

Dear Parent

Lateral Flow Home Testing

Many thanks to all our parents for all you have done to ensure a smooth and safe return to face to face teaching. Staff are extremely pleased to have students back in the building and would like to thank you for the magnificent support you have given to the Lateral Flow testing programme in school. It has been extremely successful and reassuring and we hope it has given the students confidence to conduct their own testing at home, successfully, with your support.

I am now writing to you all to share some key information on how tests will be distributed and provide further guidance on the completion of testing at home.

Testing students at home

All students, who have been given parental consent for school / home testing, will be provided with their Lateral Flow Home testing kit when they receive their third and final test in school. Students will sign for their test kit and we will ensure that students place the test in their school bags. I have included a table below with the date's students will receive their tests. Please can you check your child's bag on their allocated day and retrieve it.

Year	Final test date in school
7	Thursday March 18
8	Friday March 19
9	Wednesday March 17
10	Wednesday March 17
11	Tuesday March 16
12 - 14	Week beginning March 15

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive a pack of tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and how to report the results.

Taking the test

It is advised that students take the test in the morning before coming into school, however, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. If this is the case, please conduct the test the evening before. Testing should be conducted twice a week, 3-5 days apart to ensure there is a good timeframe to capture any positive cases, we therefore recommend tests being taken on a Monday and Thursday. We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test when they receive the kit. Please discard the leaflet inside of the box and only refer to the additional leaflet provided. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

This video will be on the school website along with FAQ and Data Privacy information.

Should you require further help and support, please click here [Help and support is available](#), the link includes 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 for you to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

These lateral flow home testing kits do 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 and any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You are also required to [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and also reported to school via the EduLink app.

To contact school with your test results please log into your EduLink app, go to forms section and select the form with the correct date and follow instructions to submit your result.

If you have any issues accessing EduLink, please email edulink@ntc.kent.sch.uk

Please remember, if your child tests **positive**, in addition to logging the result with NHS Test & Trace and reporting it to school through the EduLink app, you must also phone the school Attendance Officer on 01474 533802. This is so we can conduct our own track and trace for any close contacts in school.

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

Negative and void results should also 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](#).

Please contact Mrs M Foord our COVID Coordinator or myself, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing on foordm@ntc.kent.sch.uk.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Tinker
Deputy Headteacher