

17 March 2021

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

Dear parent/carer,

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 school/college (via an ATS, Asymptomatic Test Site). 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 term ends.

As we have shared previously, up to one in three 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.

Testing students at home

Students will be given home test kits and an updated instructions for use (v1.3.2 or v1.3.3) guide. during their P5 lesson on the allocated day. The privacy notices can be found on the school website.

We would like them to take their tests before school on a Monday morning and a Thursday morning.

Initially there will be some variability in the length of time between their last test in school and their first test at home.

Year 11 will be given test kits on Thursday 18 March, so in the first instance please can they test Friday morning, and then again in a routine of Monday morning and Thursday morning.

Years 7 -10 will be given their test kits on Friday 19 March, so they need to test Monday morning and Thursday morning.

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive a pack of three tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

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 school if needed. You need to report test results.

Taking the test

[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.

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?

Positive test results:

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 need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and the school, via [this link](#), which is also available on the school website: [Medina College – Isle of Wight Education Federation \(iwef.org.uk\)](#).

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).

Please also email anna.mursell@iwef.org.uk as soon as you receive the positive LFD test result at home.

Void and negative test results:

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 via [this link](#), which is also available on the school website: [Medina College – Isle of Wight Education Federation \(iwef.org.uk\)](#).

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](#).

Results to the NHS can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. The result still needs to be reported to the school.

Home testing if student has not been tested in school

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. We will then ask you to complete an online survey so that we have your details registered as receiving home test kits. Testing on-site (via an ATS) initially is a condition of being able to transition pupils and students to test at home.

If your child has been testing in school and you have therefore already completed the registration form, you do not need to complete this form.

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

Please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance if you have any questions. Anna Mursell, our COVID Coordinator, can also be contacted if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Testing on site

If testing at home is not possible, the school will keep a testing provision available on site, which will be carried out in line with the testing pattern for all other staff and students, on a Monday and Thursday morning. We encourage all students to test at home if possible, but if this is not possible, please let your child's Head of Year know in the first instance, so that we can make suitable arrangements.

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 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

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

Thank you for your support.



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