



NENEGATE



NENEGATE SCHOOL

Date: 11th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

[The Government has recently announced that](#) all secondary aged students will also be offered regular asymptomatic COVID-19 testing to take at home. All secondary aged students will be offered tests to take at home twice a week, so that we can reduce the spread of the virus.

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 schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week.

Testing pupils/students at home

Test kits will be given to students in school next week and are free of charge. Students will receive a pack of 3 or 7 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

The final test in school for students will be next Tuesday, so they will need to complete their first home test on Thursday or Friday. The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Parents will also need to tell the school the result of each test by completing the Microsoft forms link which will be emailed each week. This link can be used multiple times.

If a student has a positive test result, they will need to stay at home and self-isolate. They will need also need to confirm their positive test by booking a PCR test at a COVID test centre. If the result of the test is unclear (void) they will need to do another one. Students have the option to take the test the evening before school, but no earlier. The ideal time to take a test is in the morning before going to school. Test results should always be reported.

Taking part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. I am strongly encouraging all students to take part in the national testing programme. We will be putting a demonstration video on our school website early next week to support them.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about home testing and thank you for your support.

Catherine Wilson
Head Teacher

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Some frequently asked questions

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
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- 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

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When students take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the student.

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

- their name
- their test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

They will also need to tell the school or college their test result.

Under UK law, a child’s school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the ‘public interest’.

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.

When a person reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC, who may then share the information with a GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person’s 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 on our school website.

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