

17 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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

Further to the programme on Lateral Flow testing ongoing in school, I am now writing to update you on the next stages of the process. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support and kind words last week, and also to commend our students, each and every one of whom approached testing with a mature attitude. The testing team have been incredibly impressed with the polite and calm way students have behaved when in the testing centre.

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.

Up to 1 in 3 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.

We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child during this week (when they come to the Sports Hall for their third and final test in school). Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before. We recommend that these morning tests are done on Mondays and Thursdays.**

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays.**

Mrs Williams has filmed herself opening and using a self testing kit. Please watch it [here](#) before commencing home testing.

From Monday, 22 March onwards, we will continue to run a small testing site at school in the old SEN office (Room 051a near the music block) so that students who are **unable physically to test themselves at home** will be able to be tested regularly. This small test site will be open on Mondays and Thursdays only from 7:45-8:45am. Please contact Mr Cahill (ncahill@vynersschool.org.uk) if you will require this service explaining the exact nature of the physical barriers to home testing that your child faces.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Please note that the rapid testing does **not** replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Reporting results to NHS Test and Trace

It is really important that results of tests are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

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

Reporting my child's results to the school

What if my child tests positive?

If your child **tests positive** on a lateral flow device at home with a self testing kit, please inform us straight away by phoning the school on 01895234342 and emailing Mrs. Foster (afoster@vynersschool.org.uk) and Mrs. Bashford-Hynes (ehynes@vynersschool.org.uk).

Your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. They **will also need to book** a PCR confirmatory test. If that PCR test is negative, self-isolation will stop and your child will be allowed back to school immediately along with all their close contacts.

What if my child tests negative?

If your child **tests negative** on a lateral flow device at home with a self testing kit, please inform us by filling in these Google Forms (which accept multiple responses). You will need to fill in the Form every time they test negative:

[Year 7 reporting a NEGATIVE result Form](#)

[Year 8 reporting a NEGATIVE result Form](#)

[Year 9 reporting a NEGATIVE result Form](#)

[Year 10 reporting a NEGATIVE result Form](#)

[Year 11 reporting a NEGATIVE result Form](#)

[Year 12 reporting a NEGATIVE result Form](#)

[Year 13 reporting a NEGATIVE result Form](#)

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

What if my child gets a Void / Invalid result?

If your child **gets a void / invalid result**, they should complete a second LFT test. If they get a second void / invalid result, you should book a PCR test for them (there is no need to self isolate unless you have Covid symptoms) and report this issue to Neill Cahill (ncahill@vynersschool.org.uk).

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

I would also like to remind you 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 [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/school-household-testing)

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr N T Cahill
Assistant Headteacher