

9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### 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, 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 now be moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their first two 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. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-4 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** (or Sunday night and Wednesday night if you're doing them the evening before).

Home testing will be reviewed by the government at the end of September.

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

From Monday, 13 September onwards, we will continue to run a small testing site at school in the old conference room (074) 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](mailto: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.

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.

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**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher

## **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](http://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 01895 234342 and emailing [office@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:office@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 positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the start of their symptoms if symptomatic, or 10 days from the positive PCR if asymptomatic. After the 10 days have elapsed, if your child is **both** asymptomatic (i.e. **no** cough, **no** temperature, **no** loss of taste/smell), **and** they are **not** a close contact of a positive case, they must return to school immediately.

Fully vaccinated adults and young persons under 18yrs and 6mths do not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of your child. They are instead advised to book a PCR. They do not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of that PCR.

### **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](mailto:ncahill@vynersschool.org.uk)).

### **Testing for parents and households twice a week**

I would also like to remind you that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents and their households. 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](https://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.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

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

Yours faithfully,



**Mr N T Cahill**  
**Assistant Headteacher**