

30 September 2021



**Vyners School**  
Striving for Excellence

Dear Parent/Carer

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

As we head into the winter months, testing twice a week will become even more important in order to keep each other safe from COVID-19.

At the moment, we have approximately 20 students who are currently positive with COVID-19 and self isolating at home.

As you are aware, schools are no longer required to do their own contact tracing. So unless you hear from NHS Test and Trace (which can take up to a week to 10 days in our experience) or you / your child is contacted directly, you are unlikely to know whether or not you / your child has been in contact with a positive student.

Regular testing is one way in which we can help keep everyone safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support and for reporting their children's results on the Google Forms.

We will be sending home new style COVID-19 testing kits with your child during the coming days. 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).

Please note, these new style testing kits require a **nose swab only** of both nostrils and the results can be read in just **15 minutes**. There is no tonsil swab anymore. We urge you to carefully **read the instruction booklet** provided in the kit before using it for the first time.

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](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.

**Vyners School**  
Warren Road, Ickenham,  
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Tel **01895 234342**

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[www.vynersschool.org.uk](http://www.vynersschool.org.uk)

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



## **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 asymptomatic (i.e. **no** cough, **no** temperature, **no** loss of taste/smell), they can 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 students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students 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)).

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Headteacher

## **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](http://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 sincerely



**Mr N T Cahill**  
Assistant Headteacher

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