

12th March 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Home Testing for Pupils

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware, 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 and up to this point we have been doing this in school. Moving forward we are now asking you to carry out tests at home, twice every week, 3-4 days apart. In line with [The Government's recent announcement](#) all secondary aged pupils will be offered home tests to make their continued return to school safer for all.

Testing pupils at home

Pupils will be provided with test kits during morning registration next week, a year group per day. Year 11 on Monday, Year 10 on Tuesday, Year 9 on Wednesday, Year 8 on Thursday and Year 7 on Friday. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD GIVES YOU THE TESTS on their return from school.

Tests are free of charge. Pupils will receive two packs of three tests, in a box, along with an **updated leaflet** on how to take the test and report the results.

Taking the test

Please ensure you have enough time to do the test before coming 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 necessary.

Pupils should, if possible, take the test before coming into school twice a week on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**. [Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#), and an updated paper leaflet is supplied with the test kits.

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 current national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

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 as well as to the school and should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home.

If the result of the test is unclear (void) you should take another test.

Negative and void results should still be reported to both NHS Test & Trace, as well as the school.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. 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.

You need to report each test result on the day it was taken.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website:

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

You also need to tell the school the result of each test by emailing the pupil's name and result to:

c19pupilresults@gts.devon.sch.uk

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all pupils will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. We have made the decision to supply tests to all pupils, irrespective of whether they have provided consent for in-school testing. By completing the test, and providing the result, you are providing consent for home testing.

I strongly encourage all pupils to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other pupils to attend school as safely as possible.

Attached to this letter you will find the additional documents:

- Privacy Notice
- Copy of the latest guide
- Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher