

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### Update on twice weekly Covid testing at home

A huge thank you for your support with testing so far. Well over 90% of students have been tested 3 times and several asymptomatic cases have been identified. This will have helped to protect us all from the possible spread of Covid-19.

From Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, in line with government guidance, we will be moving to twice weekly testing at home. We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Please make sure your child tests themselves twice each week. Ideally these would be on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. **Your child should not eat or drink for 30mins before the test is taken.**

Each test pack includes a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test. A short video can also be accessed [here](#) and the graphic in the FAQ with this letter gives a simple overview. Help and support is available, including instructions in different languages at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>.

For those students who are anxious about completing the tests at home, we can still provide a small testing service on site. You will need to inform your child's Hub Director if you wish to access this provision via:

The Bridge – Mrs Hayer [hayer.a@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:hayer.a@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk)  
Year 8/9 – Mr Barrett [barrett.p@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:barrett.p@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk)  
Year 10/11 – Miss Wright [wright.v@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:wright.v@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk)  
P16 Select – Mr Michael [michael.a@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:michael.a@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk)

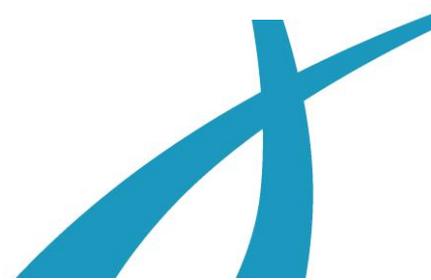
This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines. You can [book a test here](#).

### What should you do after the test?

All results whether positive, negative or void need to be reported to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and the school.

#### Reporting to NHS Test and Trace

Report your test result to NHS Test and Trace by following this link [NHS Test and Trace](#). Results can also be reported to NHS Test and Trace via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.



### Reporting your results to school

It is important to keep a note of your child's results which you must share with the school as soon as known. To do this we are asking you to complete the following online form via <https://forms.office.com/r/Dw5sjuSKDv> and include the following:

- Your child's name
- Year group
- Date of test
- Time of test
- Your child's test result
- The reference number on the test Kit

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 should book or [order a confirmatory PCR test](#). If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test. If you are not sure about any of this please contact us and we can explain what you need to do.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, 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 in line with national guidance.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We will be sending home extra kits for the Easter holiday before term ends.

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

A reminder 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](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 [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Thank you again for your continued support. A reminder that we will continue to do everything we possibly can to help anyone in our school community. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please do contact us. If we can help, we will.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Jupp', written in a cursive style.

**Mr C Jupp**  
**Headteacher**



## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Do I need to give consent?**

Students and parents do not need to give written consent to take part in the home testing programme.

### **Can my child take the test themselves?**

Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it. Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the student to take the test if they need support. Students aged 11 should be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

### **Reporting problems or issues with testing**

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** or contact the school via [Rule.S@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:Rule.S@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk). If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

### **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.

### **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. 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.

### **Do I need to send the test to a lab?**

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Once completed they can be disposed of within the bag provided and placed in a normal waste bin

### **Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?**

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information;
- attend 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 (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker [www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site](http://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site) or check your local council website);

- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/covid-test-finder).

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests). There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students](#).

### **How will personal information and test results be shared?**

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child. For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see our detailed privacy notice [Privacy Notice](#).

### **Do I have to pay for the tests?**

No. Testing is free of charge as it is funded by the Government.

### **What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?**

This will work the same as it did when we were open before. The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

### **Can students undertake home testing if they refused to take initial onsite testing?**

If a student did not consent to engage in the initial wave of on-site testing but then decides to participate in testing at home then we are more than happy to show them how to use the test, to practise self-swabbing on site and to collect their at-home testing kits.

### **How do I do the test?**

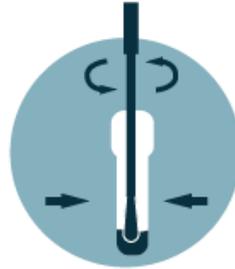
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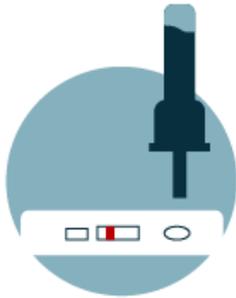
**1** Swab from nose or throat



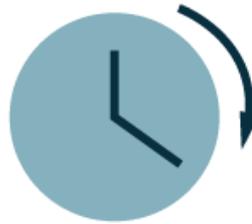
**2** Specimen added to extraction tube



**3** Drops of extraction solution added to test cartridge



**4** Wait 20-30 mins



**5** Read results

