



# Holy Family Catholic High School

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Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Home Testing for Students**

All students with consent have now collected their home test kits, and their Science teacher has demonstrated how to use the kit. They have been given two boxes each containing three tests. They are to take two tests each week, one on a Sunday evening/Monday morning, and the other on Wednesday evening/Thursday morning. They will take another box home on Friday and this should be enough to get them through to the end of the Easter holiday (*the guidance changed yesterday and they are to continue taking the tests during the Easter holiday*). They will then be given more test kits to take home when they return after Easter. If your child does not have a home test kit please contact school.

Taking part in testing is voluntary and students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. I strongly encourage all students to take part as testing at home can reduce the spread of the virus.

[Help and support is available](#) , including instructions in different languages, on how to test and report the results and [a video showing you how to take the test](#) is also available to watch.

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).

Testing at home does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

### **Can students 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 to 17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the child to take the test if they need support and ensure the result is reported.
- Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

### **You need to report each test result**

The result of each test must be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are enclosed with this letter

If you have any questions about home testing, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Symes

# Four easy stages of a rapid COVID-19 self-test

**NHS**  
Test and Trace



**1** **Set-up:** sanitise testing area and hands, unpack kit, read instructions



**2** **Swab:** throat then nose



**3** **Process test:** place swab in liquid in tube, squeeze liquid onto test device



**4** **Read result:** ensure test device is on a flat surface, wait and read result at 30 minutes

NHS



## FAQs –Students Home Testing

### What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests positive you, your household, 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](#) and to school.

You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home.

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

**Negative and void results** should be reported to [NHS Test & Trace](#).

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.

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

### Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice.

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

### 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** and please also contact school. 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. The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

### 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.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

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. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

### **How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?**

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample-you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus-they give rapid results within 30 minutes

### **What does it mean if I have a positive result?**

If you have a positive antigen LFD test result 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 & Trace](#) and your school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at school. You can [book a test here](#)).

### **What does it mean if I have a negative result?**

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.

### **What if I have a void result?**

If the result of the test is unclear (void), you should take another one. If the next test is also void, you should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

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

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. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test.

## **How do you report the result?**

Once you have taken the test, you will need to report the result online (whether it is positive, negative or void) using this [service](#). You will receive a text or email from [NHS Test & Trace](#) confirming that you have reported your test result.

## **Can 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.test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

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 <http://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?**

To report your result, you will need to share some information about yourself, so that your test result can be traced. You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your name
- your test result
- the reference number on the test kit

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They will share it with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer you health services and guidance if you need to self-isolate. They might also use your data anonymously (without your name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus. For more information on how personal data is used for testing please request the detailed privacy notice.