



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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Dear Parent/Carer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 HOME TESTING KITS

Now that pupils have had their first three supervised tests on site at school, they will be moving to twice weekly rapid COVID-19 testing at home. We will be sending your son or daughter home with testing kits today.

There is a lot of information contained with this letter, but please try not to worry about this process as we are always here to provide additional support and advice if needed.

We request that your child tests themselves **twice a week, 3-5 days apart**. It is preferable for the test to be done in the morning before school whenever possible, however we understand that this may not be practical. Therefore, if not please test the evening before school.

Testing at Home

Students will be given **2 packs of 3 tests** to bring home. We would like them to take their tests initially on the following days:-

- **Monday 22 March 2021*** in the morning or **Sunday 21 March** in the evening.
- **Thursday 25 March 2021** in the morning or if not possible **Wednesday 24 March 2021** in the evening
- **Monday 29 March 2021** in the morning or if not possible **Sunday 28 March 2021** in the evening
* (5 days after their last test in school)

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. Ideally this should be **Monday** and **Thursday** mornings each week. We will be sending extra kits home for the Easter holidays in the week commencing 29 March 2021.

You will also need to inform us of the result of each test by clicking onto the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/kfmJnnyQn6>

I am strongly encouraging all pupils to take part as testing at home will allow your child and other students to continue to attend school as safely as possible. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer. Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

I hope that the information contained with this letter is self-explanatory, however if you have any questions or concerns about home testing please contact Mrs S Chapman, our COVID Coordinator.

Thank you for your continued support which is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher

Taking the Test:

Pupils will be provided with a leaflet on how to do the test with the kit – please do not use the instruction leaflet within the box. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

[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.

What should you do if there is a positive result?

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 school using the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/kfmJnnyQn6>

You should [arrange a confirmatory PCR test](#) at your nearest testing centre, for example Haydock Park.

What should you do if there is a void result?

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

Reporting a negative and void result

Negative and void results should be reported to both:-

- [NHS Test & Trace:](#) <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- School: <https://forms.office.com/r/kfmJnnyQn6>

Remember that 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.

Please remember that you need to report each test result

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

What do I do with the used test equipment?

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).

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

Some Frequently asked Questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. The information on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice can be found on our website <https://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk/covid-19-information>

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

Can my child take the test themselves?

Pupils aged 12 -17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the pupil to take the test if they need support.

Pupils aged 11 must 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** and please also tell the 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. LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they 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 the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is 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 my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child 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 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. 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 take the test [here](#).

How do you report the result?

If it is positive, negative (or void) by using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result. All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

Results can also be reported to NHS Test & Trace via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

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 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 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.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your child's name
- your child's test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

You will also need to tell your child's school or college their test result.

Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their 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 see the detailed privacy notice on the school website - <https://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk/covid-19-information>