



Ref: MS/ES

19 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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. We can do this in schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

Testing students at home

Students will be able to **take home their first test kits after completing a minimum of 3 on site tests, for most students this will be after testing during the week commencing 22/3/21. They will be handed out as the students leave the auditorium after testing.**

We would like them to take their tests before school on Thursdays and Mondays

You will also need to tell the school the result of each test by completing an online form. Tests are free of charge. Students will receive 3 packs of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

Make sure you have enough time to do the test before going 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 if needed. You need to report test results.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, you can still get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

With everybody now back in school, I am grateful to parents and carers for keeping us informed about changing health situations in their households, as this helps us to manage the potential spread of COVID in school. Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays** So that we can continue to do contact tracing where necessary, we are asking parents and carers of children currently in school to let us know if their child tests positive during the first six days of the Easter holiday. So if a student that has been in school next week receives a positive test after Friday 26th March, we are asking parents to contact the school immediately using my email address, m.snape@mardenhigh.net, and provide the following information:

- Child's full name
- Date of COVID test
- What date symptoms started if present

This will allow us to follow up any potential close contacts and request that they isolate for 10 days to prevent further transmission of COVID-19. It will also be very important that parents continue to let me know of other positive COVID tests in their households so that, again, we can help to prevent the potential spread of the virus by ensuring conversations take place about the correct durations of isolations.



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Marden High



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Taking the test

Students should take the test, before coming into school, twice a week. We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. 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.

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 national guidelines.

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 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).

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

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

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](#).

You need to report each test result

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 will also need to tell the school the result of each test by completing the Google results form.

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
- 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

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.

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

Please contact Mrs Sonia Thompson our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Matt Snape
Headteacher