



Trinity Catholic High School

Headmaster: Dr P C Doherty OBE, BA (Hons), DPhil (Oxon), FRSA

Date: 23/03/2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware, over the last 2 weeks we ran a programme Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing here at school to help identify any student that is carrying the Coronavirus Covid-19 virus but is not showing any symptoms. This was part of a Government initiative to identify and reduce asymptomatic carriers of Covid-19 and I am delighted to report that, having conducted over 4,000 tests on site, we have identified no positive cases of coronavirus in our school community. The school's testing process ran extremely smoothly and I want to thank you for your support with implementing this element of our school's coronavirus measures.

The second part of this Government initiative is Home-Testing for students ([home-test information](#)). In brief, the Government expects that, once each student has tested three times in school, they will move on to using home testing kits twice weekly. The purpose of this letter is to give you details as to how this system will operate.

- a) We are providing students with 3 boxes of home test kits. Each box contains the items for 3 tests and an instruction booklet. Therefore, your child will be able to conduct 9 home tests. This will allow home testing throughout the remaining weeks of this term and throughout the Easter break. Please note the instruction booklet in the test kit is incorrect and can be discarded. Your child will have been provided with the new instruction guidance as a separate booklet when receiving their home test kits. Please note that these LFD Tests are for students with no symptoms only. If your child develops symptoms at any time, such as a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, they must immediately self-isolate and you will need to book a test by calling 119 or visiting a test centre.
- b) It is advised that a home test is conducted twice every week. I suggest the test is taken every Monday and Thursday before school. The following NHS video guidance is also useful in explaining how to conduct the test at home ([instruction video](#)). Please note that the tests that we have distributed are registered to the school / student and must not be used by other persons.
- c) **Positive Result:** If a home test shows a positive result, this should then be followed up by taking a PCR test to confirm the result. If anyone tests positive 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.
- d) **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 covering and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing. Home test kits do not replace symptomatic testing. If your child or anyone in your family have symptoms, they should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines ([national guidelines](#)).
- e) Regardless of the test result being positive, negative or void you are required to report the result of each test using the Covid-19 test result website ([reporting results](#)). Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7.00am to 11.00pm.

Main School Office

Upper Site: Mornington Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TP Telephone: 020 8504-3419

Lower Site: Sydney Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TB Telephone: 020 8504-8946

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- f) 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). It is very unlikely, but if any clinical or non-clinical issues occur, this must be reported. Examples of clinical issues are; a swab breaking in the mouth, bleeding, allergic reaction on using the test kit etc. If there is a clinical incident which led or has potential for harm, participants are advised to report it to the Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site ([Yellow Card Reporting](#)). This is not for seeking immediate medical care, which should be sought through the usual route of contacting 111 or 999. Non-clinical issues would be for example a missing item for a test kit, in which case participants should contact 119 to report this.
- g) You only need to inform the school of a test result if your son or daughter records a positive result. This should be done by completing the reporting form on our school website ([Trinity's Covid Link](#)).

The Government is encouraging all family members to participate in twice-weekly home testing to help stop the spread of Covid-19 and therefore regular rapid testing is now available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. Parents and other adults in their household can access tests by ordering them online ([order tests here](#)).

Home-testing is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to engage with this process. Along with the other protective measures we are taking (face coverings, sanitisation, year group bubbles...etc.) these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Dr P.C. Doherty OBE
(Headmaster)

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