



Tuesday 16th March 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Home testing kits for Sixth Form students

Following our initial week of school-based Covid testing for Sixth Form students, lateral flow home testing kits are now available for all year 12 and 13 pupils.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging participation in home testing for all year 12 and 13 students. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme as it moves from school to home.

Students will be issued with their home testing kits on Tuesday after an assembly to explain and train all Sixth form students how to take the test, record and report the results. Help and support is available, including instructions on how to test and report the results on the Home Testing page of our school website.

Home tests will be required to be taken twice weekly (e.g on a Sunday and Wednesday evening). We will give pupils a leaflet with instructions on how to take the test with the kit. Tests are free of charge. 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.

Your Son/Daughter will be provided with one kit per week and should continue testing twice a week and throughout the Easter school holidays when extra kits will be supplied.

Lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take half an hour from testing) will be produced by the test strip (lateral flow device). To ensure timely data that will enable us to isolate close contacts of positive cases effectively, we will require results to be reported immediately following test result:

- 1) Please report the result to the school by filling in our online form (link will be sent to your son/daughter via school email)
- 2) Please report to the NHS: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling 119 and please also inform 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).

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If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. PCR tests can be booked by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

While waiting for the confirmatory PCR result (via text/email), the pupil and their close contacts will need to self-isolate. It is important that school is informed as soon as possible via the email link when in the case of a positive result. If the confirmatory PCR test returns a positive result the pupil and their close contacts will have to continue to self-isolate for a total of 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to continue to attend school.

If your son/daughter has been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive, they will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. They will be required to self-isolate as per government guidance.

The home testing programme is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including 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 book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please report this to the school as soon as possible.

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all pupils will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. I am strongly encouraging all pupils to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other pupils to attend school as safely as possible.

Please contact me if you have any questions on paul.cornish@eastlondonscienceschool.co.uk.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Cornish
Vice Principal

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