**Nether Stowe School**

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**15th March 2021**

**Arrangements for Covid testing at Home**

Dear parent or carer,

Firstly, I would like to warmly thank you for your support of the phased return of students last week. It has been fantastic to welcome pupils into school and to have them back learning in the classroom, where they belong.

The testing this week has been incredibly successful. Pupils have been absolutely outstanding throughout the process; they have made an excellent return to school. I have no doubt that a substantial factor in this has been the conversations and help you provided at home before your child returned to school. Thank you for your support.

We will shortly be coming to the stage when pupils will have completed their third, in-school test. This means that we will also begin the distribution of at-home testing kits for all pupils. We appreciate that, although pupils have the experience of completing three tests in school, there will still be some anxieties around the arrangements for testing at home. The information below sets out the schedule for the distribution of testing kits; how to conduct the test at home; as well as the arrangements for the reporting of results to NHS test and trace and school.

Please remember that home-testing regime is for pupils not displaying symptoms. **If you child is displaying symptoms, they should not come in to school and you should book a PCR test.**

**When will my child receive their home-testing kit?**

Pupils will receive their home-testing kit the day after they complete their third in-school test. The table below sets out when test packs will be provided. Each pack contains seven tests and they are provided free of charge. Pupils should test twice per week. Therefore, unless repeat tests are required, each pack contains enough tests for two and a half weeks. Tests will only be provided to pupils where consent has been provided for testing.

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| --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Date for distribution of home testing packs** |
| Year 11 | Wednesday 17th March |
| Year 13 | Wednesday 17th March |
| Year 10 | Thursday 18th March |
| Year 12 | Thursday 18th March |
| Year 7 | Friday 19th March |
| Year 8 | Monday 22nd March |
| Year 9 | Tuesday 23rd March |

* Pupils will also be provided with a guide to conducting the test, [click here to view.](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957271/COVID-19-self-test-instructions.pdf)
* A useful NHS video guide to conducting a test at home can also be [viewed by clicking here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYlVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1)
* A number of support documents are also available through the ‘[Support for Home Testing’](https://netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk/support-for-home-testing/) link on the school website.
* Further support and guidance from the NHS is available by [clicking here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help).

**How will tests be distributed?**

Pupils will be given their test pack, via their form tutor, on the allocated day as listed above. The relevant test kit lot number will be recorded against the your child’s name.

If your child needs more tests before the normal resupply point, please contact your child’s form tutor, who can arrange for appropriate supply, when required.

Students should collect enough home test kits the week before school holidays to allow them to continue testing through school holiday periods.

**When should I do a test?**

Tests should be completed twice per week. Tests must take place between three and five days of the previous test. For example, if you complete the first test on a Sunday, the next test should be completed on either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. We recommend that tests are completed on Sunday and Wednesday.

Ideally, home tests should be conducted in the morning before coming into school. Please remember that, for any pupils aged 11, the test must be administered by an adult. Anyone aged 12-17 should be supervised by adult, but they can administer the test themselves. There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. All test kit waste can be disposed of in a normal household wate bin.

**What do I need to do once I have a test result?**

You are required to report your test result – whether negative, positive or void - thorough the NHS test and trace system:

[Click here to report the result of your test to the NHS](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

You can also report the result via the phone number provided in the test kit instructions.

Schools are not able to see the information provided to NHS test and trace. We therefore ask you to additionally complete the very quick form, linked below, to report your child’s test result to school.

[Click here to report a test result to school](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4dh8d5jQJ0Gd5XhA80Q_CVsYFUb4wlpClzX9SObbeQZUQkYxUUY2UVlLUFpQU0IxTk9JN0VDQkJTSS4u)

The ATLP privacy notice for home-testing on the school website can be [viewed here](https://atlp.org.uk/files/2021/03/5.-Privacy-Notice-Home-Testing-Staff-and-Students.pdf).

**Positive Test Results**

**Any positive results must also be communicated to the school by phone, at the earliest opportunity, via reception, and the national guidance for self-isolation must be followed.**

**All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test.** Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be [booked online](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the pupil and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the at-home LFD test: a child and close contacts can then return to school.

**Negative Test Results**

A negative result does not guarantee that someone is not carrying the virus. Students should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission, such as wearing a face covering where appropriate, regularly washing hands and observing social distancing.

**Void Test Results**

The test should be repeated

**My child has already tested positive for COVID-19. Do they still need to do the tests at home?**

If someone has recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19, they are likely to have developed some immunity. Individuals are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms.

If individuals choose to take an LFD test after the isolation period and they test positive, they will still be required to self-isolate for 10 days, or longer if symptomatic.

Individuals are still required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case, even if this is within the 90 day window.

**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 inform school via reception.

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/>

**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](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://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.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](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

**Are the tests voluntary?**

We want to encourage as much home-testing as possible to ensure that all schools can remain open for the benefit of all of our young people. The initial response to in-school testing has been excellent Nevertheless, all participation in testing is voluntary. Once you have understood the testing process and have read the privacy notice, if you choose to participate, you are committing to administering the tests and reporting your results through the NHS test and trace system and to school.

I appreciate there is a lot of information contained in this letter and that testing at home will be a new experience for all of us. The documents linked above will provide support through the process and they are also provided in a central place on the school website for easy reference.

Best regards,

**Mr G Langston-Jones**

**Headteacher**