

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Dear Students

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 Oaklands by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

Taking test kits home

You will be able to collect your home test kits from the Gym when you come for your third LFT.

We would like you to take your tests on a **Sunday and Wednesday evening** before 7.00pm. Taking the test in the evening ensures you are not late to school if for example, you have to re-do the test due to a void result.

You will be given two packs of three tests in a box with a separate leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

Taking the test

You should take the test two times every week as outlined above. Click [here](#) for a useful four step reminder on how to carry out your test.

You need to report test results. Click [here](#) to watch a video presentation on how to do this.

You can report your results **using Test Register** and it will allow you to log your test result with school and then enable you to submit the result to the NHS as well.

You will get an email with an activation code – [please click on this to register.](#)

[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.](#)**

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Can I take the test myself?

Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help you if you need support.

Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

You need to report each test result whether it is positive, negative or void.

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and you will be able to attend Oaklands whether you take part in testing or not.

I am strongly encouraging all students and staff to take part. Testing yourself at home will allow us to reduce the spread of the virus.

Please contact Mr Cooley, our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher

Some Frequently Asked Questions

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 should report your result **using Test Register** to both NHS Test & Trace and the 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/college).

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you will need to do another test.

Negative and void results should be reported **using Test Register**.

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](#).

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please click [here](#) to read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice.

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to NHS Test & Trace and Oaklands regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void) **using Test Register**.

Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it using **Test Register**.

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 two 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 - they give rapid results within 30 minutes

What does it mean if I have a positive result?

If you have a positive antigen LFD test result you, your household and 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 & Trace and school **using Test Register**.

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 Oaklands).

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

What does it mean if I have a 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 mask and regularly washing your hands.

What if I have a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), you should take another one. If the next test is also void, you 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 **using Test Register**.

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 administer the test.

How do you report the result?

Once you have taken the test, you will need to report the result online (whether it is positive, negative or void) using **Test Register**. You also need to tell Oaklands 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 Oaklands using Test Register.

Can 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.nhs.uk/covid-19-test-finder)

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?

To report your result, you will need to share some information about yourself, so that your test result can be traced.

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

- your name
- your test result
- the reference number on the Test Kit

You will also need to tell your school or college your test result.

Under UK law, your school or college collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.

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.

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 [here](#).