



12 March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

## **Rapid Lateral Flow Testing at Home**

I am writing to provide you with details of the home testing programme from 22 March. As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all secondary aged students will be offered tests to take at home (twice per week, 3-4 days apart.) Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing because they have no symptoms. By identifying these individuals through home testing we can help to reduce the spread of the virus.

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

Students will collect home kits after their third test in school next week (Years 11 to 13 on Tuesday; Years 9/10 on Wednesday and Years 7/8 on Thursday). These kits should be used week commencing 22 March and during the Easter holiday. Students will receive 6 tests with a separate leaflet on how to take the test and report the results to NHS Test and Trace (we have been asked to provide a separate leaflet as those contained in the packs have been updated). If your child has not taken part in the lateral flow testing in school, but you would like them to take home tests, please email [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) and we will arrange for kits to be provided.

As well as reporting the results to NHS Test and Trace, you will also need to report the result of each test to the school via this [form](#) (which will also be posted on the ticker line and communication page of the school website from 19 March).

The tests provided are only for use by Ashlyns students. Details of how parents of other school aged children, their households and bubbles can take regular, rapid tests can be [found here](#).

### **Taking the tests**

Ideally, students should take their tests in the morning before going to school on Monday and Thursday. However, we understand that for some families this may prove difficult for a variety of reasons. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school.

As well as the leaflet provided with the test kits, there is also a video to show you how to take the test [here](#) and full instructions can be found [here](#).

When carrying out a home test, students aged 11 must have their test administered by an adult; students aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves. Students aged 18 and over should take the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.

Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

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 and any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#).

Positive, negative and void results should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school. If the result of the test is unclear (void) you should do another test.

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](#).

Please see our updated privacy statement [here](#). Further information on how personal information and test results will be shared can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions document [here](#).

Please contact Andrea West, our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing, or if you have experienced any difficulties with home testing (admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk). We are following the latest guidance and advice we have received from Hertfordshire County Council and the Government and we will update you on plans for testing beyond Easter as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland', written in a cursive style.

**James Shapland**  
Headteacher