



THE WHITSTABLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

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

Testing students at home

Students will have been given their test kits on their way out of school this week.

We would like them to take their tests before school on Mondays and Thursdays*

You will need to tell the school the results of the test, by completing this [form](#).

Tests are free of charge. Students have received a pack of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. Test kits will be handed out in school on a regular basis.

*Tests should preferably be carried out in the morning before coming into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be done the evening before school if needed.

Taking the test

We have given students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

[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.

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?

- **Positive Result**
If anyone tests positive, **either you, your household or 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 and Trace](#) and the school.
You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home.
- **Unclear**
If the result of the test is unclear (void) you should do another test.



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- **Negative and Void Results**

Negative and void results should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and the school.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. You should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a facemask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of Coronavirus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

You need to report each test result

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

I am strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Mr D Chaplin
Senior Assistant Headteacher