

17 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

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

### Testing students at home

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part or not. We hope that the option to take the test in the morning or the evening will support families to test at home.

Tests are free of charge. Your child will receive 2 packs of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results, which will take you to the end of the Easter Holidays. We await guidance on whether testing will continue after Easter.

We would recommend students test on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. You need to report any positive test results to school by emailing [office@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:office@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

### Taking the test

Your child should take the test twice a week. A leaflet giving instructions on how to do the test will be given with the test kit.

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 LFD test?**

If your child (or anyone in your household) 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 need to report your result to NHS Test and Trace.

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 should do another test.

**Negative and void results** need to be reported to NHS Test & Trace.

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.

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>

You will also need to tell the school the result of a positive test.

## **Why testing is important**

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

I am strongly encouraging all children to take part. Testing at home will help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mike Birchall  
**School Business Manager**