



12th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 Home Testing Information

Students who are participating in home testing will be able to collect their first home test kits from the Sports Hall next week when they attend for their final on-site test on either Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th or Thursday 18th March.

We would like students to take their first test on the **evening of Sunday 21st March** (or the morning of Monday 22nd March). From that point forward we would then ask students to test twice each week, as follows, making sure they have enough time to complete the test properly:

- **Wednesday evening** (or before school on Thursday morning)
- **Sunday evening** (or before school on Monday morning)

Tests are free of charge. Initially, students will receive two boxes each containing 3 tests, together with an important leaflet entitled '*Your step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing*'. Please read the 'loose' version of the leaflet carefully (not the folded version which is contained inside each box).

Please note that your child's test kits **must not** be used for anyone else to take a test (see the frequently asked questions section below for details of how to obtain test kits for other members of your household).

If your child has not taken part in the in-school testing programme but you would now like them to test at home, please contact us at info@princehenrys.co.uk. We will then arrange for the appropriate training and organise when your child can collect their home test kits.

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the student to take the test, if they need support. Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

Taking the test

As outlined above, students should take the test, before coming into school, twice a week. The graphic on the next page gives a brief overview of the test process, which is explained in more detail in the leaflet which your child will receive with their first supply of test kits.

We also ask you to click [here](#) to watch a 7-minute video, which takes you through how to use the test kit at home, including how to process the swab sample. Further support is available [here](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results.

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).

Please remember that the home testing programme does **not** replace symptomatic testing. If your child has symptoms, you must follow national guidelines. This means that you, your child, your household and any support bubbles you are part of must self-isolate immediately, and you must book a PCR test for your child.

What should you do after the test?

Each time your child completes a test, you need to report their test result to [NHS Test and Trace](#), and also to Prince Henry's through this [link](#). This includes **all** test results, whether positive, negative or void. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

In the case of a **positive** test result only, please also contact us immediately on 01943 463524, or via info@princehenrys.co.uk so that we can begin to identify any close contacts in school.

If your child tests **positive** then **you, your child, your household and any support bubbles** you are part of must self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You should also book or order a confirmatory PCR test [here](#) (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted in school).

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** your child will need to do another test. If the next test is also void, they should take a PCR test. You can book or order a PCR test [here](#).

Please remember that a **negative** result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. Therefore, 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, develops symptoms of the virus, you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and you will be able to attend Prince Henry's whether you take part in testing or not. However, I am strongly encouraging all students to take part, as testing at home will help us to reduce the spread of the virus.


Please contact me, as the school's test programme COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing through the info@princehenry.co.uk email address.

Thank you for your support.




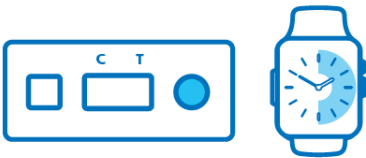
Yours faithfully



Mr C Rowbottom
Associate Headteacher
COVID Coordinator (Testing)



Four easy stages of a rapid COVID-19 self-test

 1 Set-up: sanitise testing area and hands, unpack kit, read instructions	 2 Swab: throat then nose
 3 Process test: place swab in liquid in tube, squeeze liquid onto test device	 4 Read result: ensure test device is on a flat surface, wait and read result at 30 minutes

COVID-19 Home Testing

Some frequently asked questions

How do I report 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 us at Prince Henry's.

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 via [this website](#).

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 about how LFD tests work is available [here](#).

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 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 wearing face coverings and social distancing***.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 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

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 leaflet '*Your step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing*', which accompanies the test kit.

Can someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, your child's test kit must not be used by anyone else.

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. To find your nearest collection site visit [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19/test-and-trace)

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 [here](#) 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 your child, so that their test result can be traced.

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

- your child's name
- their test result
- the reference number on the test kit

Under UK law, the school collects and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.

Schools 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 will share it with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer you health services and guidance if you need to self-isolate. They might also use your data anonymously (without your 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 on the school website [here](#).