



15th March 2021

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

The Government has recently announced that all secondary and college aged students will be offered tests to on their return to school.

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.

If you have given your consent that it is appropriate for your child to be tested at home, they will be given their home test kits from tomorrow.

We would like them to take their tests on Tuesdays and Fridays

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.

Make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed. You need to report test results.

Taking the test

Your child should take the test twice a week, before coming into school or the night before. A leaflet giving instructions on how to do the test will be given with the test 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 LFD 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 need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to 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). If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test. **Negative and void results** need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and to the school.

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 each test. You need to click on the link below which will take you to a school form where the results are reported into school. You will do this whether the tests are negative, void or positive. You can use the same link for every test you do at home. <https://forms.office.com/r/UMTWnLc3VS>.

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 allow your child and other children to attend school and help to reduce the spread of the virus.

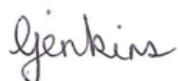
We have added a FAQ page as a separate document you may find useful. Please contact my PA, Lucy Ford by email lford@axevalley.devon.sch.uk if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

In summary

- If you have symptoms stay home and get a PCR test.
- Your child will bring home 2 packs of 3 home test kits from tomorrow.
- Students should test twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- You should report your results to NHS test and trace <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and to school <https://forms.office.com/r/UMTWnLc3VS>.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Laura Jenkins
Headteacher