



24th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has written to secondary school and college parents and guardians in England to talk about the importance of regular testing when it comes to keeping covid out of the classroom.

Letter from Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP Secretary of State for Education

The Prime Minister announced on 14 June that step 4 of the roadmap would have to be paused for up to four weeks because of the spread of the new variant.

*With the increase in cases with variants of concern, it is important to continue regular testing in order to detect cases of coronavirus, stay ahead of the virus and keep covid out of the classroom. This means that regular asymptomatic testing for all will continue, and we need you and your children who are in secondary school or college to **carry on testing at home, twice a week.***

As you know, testing has been playing a vital role in our response to the virus. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country.

I want to thank you all for your efforts so far. I know that this has been an enormously challenging time for families, who have faced many pressures over the past 18 months. Your continued support in helping us fight the virus has been vital.

Secondary pupils and college students, households and their bubbles, along with school and college staff have now completed more than 50 million tests since these were introduced back in January. That really is an incredible number and we need you to continue your efforts.

It is wonderful to see so many children back in school and through your actions we can work together to keep everyone safe ensuring we can also keep your children in school with their friends.

Lateral flow testing of students at home

Your child should take the lateral flow test twice a week, before coming into school or the night before. This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you or your child have symptoms you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

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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 and you will need to take a PCR test. You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to the school. You will need to order or book a test at a test centre <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. 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 lateral flow test result

The result of each lateral flow 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>.

In school procedures

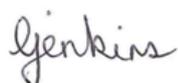
In line with Department for Education guidance, face coverings do not need to be worn by students apart from on school transport. Face coverings will continue to be worn by adults when moving around in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

Students will continue to be expected to adhere to the one-way systems in place. There are markings on the floors, both outdoors and inside, to help students to remember the expectations and to stay safe. We will continue to provide hand sanitiser for use on entry and exit to all teaching rooms and antiviral spray and wipes are provided in each classroom. We will continue to insist on good hand washing routines and reinforce good respiratory hygiene using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach where lidded bins are available in all classrooms.

In summary

- Students should continue to test twice a week
- If you or anyone in your household have symptoms, get a PCR test. You all need to stay at home until you receive the results

Yours sincerely



Laura Jenkins
Headteacher