

Update on twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students

Students have successfully moved to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home, following their first three supervised tests on site at school/college.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

We have sent home COVID-19 testing kits with your child, sufficient to last for the foreseeable future. Please ensure your child continues **testing twice a week, at home**.

[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) as there is nothing hazardous within the chemicals used for the test devices.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

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, follow [national guidelines](#) on self-isolation and testing.

Results and Reporting

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. If your child returns a void test then another Lateral Flow Test should be done, after 2 void lateral flow tests then seek a PCR test.

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. If the result is positive please let the College know using the usual Covid Contact at C19attendance@heatfieldcc.co.uk, this can also be used in term time to ask questions as well as the usual contact routes through your pastoral managers.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

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

No, 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. Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending 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.

To find out more on school household testing visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>