

16th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

Students who consented to testing in school will shortly be moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their first three supervised tests on site at school. If you **do not** wish your child to participate in lateral flow testing at home, please opt out by informing Mr Hill, the COVID Coordinator, by email at contact@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk by Thursday 18th March.

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

Testing students at home

We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child from Friday 19th March 2021. Please make sure your child tests themselves on the following days:

- **Sunday evening or Monday before school – report result Monday morning**
- **Wednesday evening or Thursday before school – report result Thursday morning**

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

Taking the test

Students should take the test before coming into school, twice a week. We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to perform the test with the 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).

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please contact us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

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.

Headteacher: **Mrs J Gray, MSc, NPQH**

St Michael's Church of England High School • Rowley Learning Campus • Curral Road • Rowley Regis • West Midlands • B65 9AN

Telephone: **0121 561 6881** • Fax: 0121 561 6882 • email: contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk

Reporting results

It is really important that results of tests are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. This must be done via NHS Test & Trace (details within the instruction booklet) and via the link below to the school:

<https://forms.gle/DJFP7JaV8APJG6uQ9>

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 of the virus.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- requesting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- attending a test site to be 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 [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests.](#)

What if I have questions or if there is an incident at home?

The NHS, government and our school website provide plenty of information about COVID-19 and the testing requirements; if you have a specific question about how the testing will take place at St Michael's, please contact us on: contact@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk.

All of the key information about lateral flow home testing for students can also be found on the school website at <https://st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk/home-lateral-testing-for-students/>

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular COVID-19 testing.

Yours faithfully,



Jayne Gray
Headteacher

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