

17th March 2021

Dear Families,

As you will know from our recent communications and the latest news, up to one in three people who have Covid-19 can spread the virus without knowing as they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus within school and the wider community, we need to identify those individuals. Following on from the in school testing in our Asymptomatic Test Centre, we are able to do this by enabling your child to carry out tests at home, twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

Your child will be issued with their home testing kits today during Lesson 5 (Years 7, 9 and 11) or afternoon registration (Years 8, 10 and Sixth Form). These tests are free of charge and your child will receive 2 packs of 3 tests in a box, with an instruction leaflet explaining how to take the test and report the results to the NHS. You must also report the results to the school (please see the link below).

Taking the Test

Your child should take their test before coming into school twice a week. We know that it can be a rush in the mornings and so, as with our staff, we are recommending that your child tests on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.

As mentioned above, your child was issued with an instruction booklet explaining how the tests should be taken but you may also find the following video useful: [Video Link](#)

[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.

If your child, or anyone in your household, displays Covid symptoms they should book a PCR test rather than using the home tests we have sent home with your child. Your household must isolate as per national guidelines.

What should you do after 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).

You need to report your result both to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to the school here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WX9J2SW>

If anyone tests positive you, your household and any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. 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 should be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and to the school using the link above.

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, 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](#).

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend Raynes Park High School whether they take part in testing or not. We are strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend Raynes Park High School as safely as possible.

Please contact me, COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing. You can find the answers to some FAQ's attached.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

S. Barnard

Ms S Barnard
Director of Operations