

Re: Parents and Carers – what you can do to help protect against Covid-19

Give consent for your child to take part in regular testing in schools to protect yourselves and loved ones.

With the Government's roadmap for getting out of lockdown released this week, and schools going back on the 8th of March, it's even more important than ever for pupils and staff to get tested for COVID-19, to prevent the spread of the virus.

Why Regular Testing Is Important

The more people that get tested, the more we can prevent the spread of the virus and the quicker we can start to get back to normal. Please bear in mind that the dates set out by the Government are not final, and can be delayed if cases start to rise again. We can help to stop this happening by getting tested and following social distancing guidelines.

Regular Testing In Secondary Schools

Schools will be asking students to use rapid testing kits (LFD tests), when they return to school. These tests allow us to identify people with coronavirus who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic people). It is estimated that around a third of all cases are asymptomatic. So finding these cases, along with other measures such as social distancing, can help us reduce the spread of the virus.

It is free for your child to take part in the testing. By taking part, they will be doing their bit to help keep us all safe. The tests are quick, easy and safe for children to use. There has been coverage in the media about LFD tests and it is important to stress that using them for regular testing provides a reliable way of identifying Covid cases quickly.

School staff have already been using the tests regularly and will continue to be asked to do that.

The first set of tests for students will take place in school and then, after that, your child will be given tests to use at home. Your child's school will have given you more information on this and other details on how students will return to school safely from March the 8th.

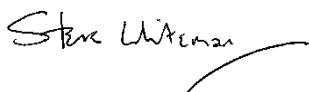
Giving Parental Consent

Your child doesn't have to take part in the testing and students in Years 7 to 11 will need parental consent to take part. However, testing in schools is an important step in helping us all to stay safe and to come out of lockdown measures, so I hope that you feel able to give your consent for your child to take part in this regular testing.

A consent form will have been included in the information the school has sent you. **Please return this consent form as soon as possible**, to help the school to make the best arrangements for your child.

By working together, we can make sure that we can start to get back to normal and reduce the impact that the virus has had on all of us.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Whiteman

Director of Public Health & Wellbeing