

18 March 2021



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

Home Testing for Students

Thank you to the overwhelming majority of you who have provided consent to participate in Lateral Flow Device testing which has seen your child tested on site on three separate occasions each 3-5 days apart. The government directive is for testing for secondary school age students to now take place **twice weekly** at home. **Each test should be 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before.**

This will commence from **Monday 22 March**.

Your child, if consent for testing has been provided, should now have two testing kit packs, each containing three tests. They should also have an information booklet which takes you through the testing process. An electronic version is available [here](#).

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch using the covid email address below so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

We would ask that **Year 7, 8 and 9** students conduct their tests on a **Monday** and **Thursday** and **Year 10-13** students on a **Tuesday** and **Friday**. Testing should continue throughout the Easter break. We are awaiting a further delivery of testing kit packs and we will furnish students with a further pack next week.

Reporting results

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. Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm

We would ask that you report the outcome of the test to school only if **POSITIVE** or **VOID** using our covid@holderness.academy email address.

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. Remember, the main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

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As yet, our LFD testing programme has not yielded any positive cases. However, should this be the case, please read the important government information below:

As schools return to full attendance, we understand parents' frustration when their child is asked to isolate at home either after testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or because of being in close contact of someone who has tested positive.

However self-isolation is one of the most important things we can do to help stop the spread of the virus and help protect our friends, family and our community. Around one in three people with coronavirus (COVID-19) have no symptoms, and so finding and isolating these hidden cases quickly will help to stop outbreaks before they get a chance to develop.

If your child has tested positive having been tested using a lateral flow device (LFD) test at school, they do not need a PCR confirmation because these tests are done in a supervised environment. Lateral flow device tests are at least 99.9% specific, meaning the likelihood of a false positive is extremely low – less than 1 in every 1,000. PCR testing will always carry a risk of producing false negatives. At the moment, carrying out LFD tests in supervised conditions and not carrying out confirmatory PCR testing means we capture the maximum possible number of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections during the initial return to school period.

Once your child starts testing at home using lateral flow tests, positive results must be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test (as these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment).

Thank you for your continued support.

Testing Availability for Parents and Adults in households with children

NHS Test and Trace have announced that asymptomatic testing is now available for parents and adults in households with children at school or college. Test kits can either be collected or ordered online. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular rapid coronavirus testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Find your local test site for kit collection at <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> or order online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Finally, we close for the Easter break at 3pm on Friday 26 March and look forward to students returning on Monday 12 April.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Scott Wilson
Headteacher