



Meadowhead School

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Academy Trust

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Deputy Headteachers

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KGR/SGI

16th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: COVID-19 Home Testing

We now know that up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

The Government has recently announced that all secondary and college aged students will be offered a home test kit after taking 3 tests in school to make the return to school safer for everyone. The testing information shared in this letter is for asymptomatic cases only. **The home kits should not be used for symptomatic testing.** If your child has symptoms, the whole household is required to self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test for your child and follow national guidelines.

Asymptomatic testing at home

Home test kits will be handed out in school from Thursday 18th March 2021.

Students will receive 2 packs of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. **Please ensure you use the new Instructions for Use v1.3.2 and NOT the instructions in the box.**

Make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. We would recommend that students take their tests before school on Monday and Thursday (before breakfast). However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the Sunday and Wednesday evening if needed. It is recommended that you do not eat or drink for at least 30 minutes before doing the test to reduce the risk of spoiling the test.

Parents are asked to report test results to the school and the NHS (details on the next page).

Taking the test

Students should take the test twice a week. We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do 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).

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What should you do after the test?

Negative, positive and void results should all be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and the school using the following link <https://mhsch.uk/studentlftresult>

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. This means 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 anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You should book or [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if your test is showing a positive result at home.

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

Attached is the Privacy Notice for the processing of your personal data in relation to the COVID-19 Home testing.

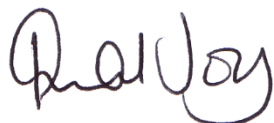
Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend Meadowhead School whether they take part in testing or not. The response in school to testing has been overwhelmingly positive and we hope that this will also be the case for home testing.

We are strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend Meadowhead School as safely as possible.

Please contact Mr Kevin Elliott or Mrs Claire Roy our COVID-19 Coordinators at finance@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.



Mrs K Grewal-Joy
Headteacher