



12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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 school 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 tests to make the return to school safer for everyone.

Testing students at home

Students will be able to collect home test kits from their form room on a designated day which they will be informed of. This will begin for all year groups next week. We would like them to take their tests before school on Mondays and Thursdays.

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive two packs of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. Preferably this would be in the morning before coming into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed. You need to report test results.

Taking the test

There is a useful video to show you how to take the test:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>

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). This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

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 need to report your result to both NHS Test and Trace and school.

NHS: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

School: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iX0vmvIX1EWBBL5CKcYsZJma834N-b5MnwwVhQjW99UNDQ5VjZHUTRJQkdaOVFLVEdRRVJINzRQMy4u>





If you test positive you should order a confirmatory PCR test. 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 as well as school. 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 and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible. Please contact me on rmaxwe@saintolaves.net if you have any questions or concerns about home testing. If you have not as yet given consent but now wish your child to be involved with home testing please email me. Attached also is the privacy notice, which relates to how the data we collect will be processed.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

R Maxwell
Assistant Headteacher