

Dear Parent/ Carer

Re: Home Testing

As you know, we have been successfully running the Covid-19 asymptomatic rapid flow tests at Ercall Wood Academy during the last few weeks. We are very pleased to say how much maturity and resilience our students have shown throughout their three onsite tests and now we are in a position to transition to home testing with self-testing kits.

What are the different types of tests?

The testing we have completed in the academy and that will now be completed at home is for the purpose of detecting asymptomatic cases (those without symptoms) and is known as lateral flow testing. If anyone shows symptoms, they must still self-isolate and book an NHS PCR test <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> rather than just taking a lateral flow test.

How to test

The tests we will provide are lateral flow tests, near identical to those students used in the academy recently. Full instructions are provided with the home testing kits, but you will need to support your child to do this. You may find this video useful in guiding you through the process - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>

When will students receive their home tests?

Lateral flow home testing kits will be provided to students this week. Students will receive 2 test kit boxes. Each test kit box contains 3 test kits so students will have enough to test twice weekly for 3 weeks. They will then receive more test kits before the Easter break so that testing can continue through the holiday. Students in Year 11 will bring their test kits home on Tuesday 16th March and Years 7-10 will bring home their kits on Thursday 18th March.

When should students do their home tests?

Students need to test twice weekly. We recommend a mid-week test and a weekend test. The test needs to be left for 30 minutes before recording a result, so please factor this time in to your morning routine.

Reporting the results

After completing each home test, you must report the result to the NHS and Ercall Wood Academy. To inform the NHS you can telephone 119 or report online www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result, as stated in the step-by-step guide. To inform the academy please use the Microsoft Forms link below to complete the student's result.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2s8TOK9SpUy44yMVeXcKuuibSo6SVfiBhzc3C8ahxQVUOFcxNzQ1S1VRWUQwUUFQNKtCN01QSFkyQj4u>



The link is also on our website.

What do I do if my child gets a positive result?

If the result of any of your tests is positive, you need to do three things:

- Your child must immediately self-isolate.
- Inform the academy by emailing admin@ercall.co.uk or telephoning 01952 387300
- Book a confirmatory PCR test - <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If the result of the PCR test comes back negative, they may end their self-isolation and return to the academy, so long as they are not showing any symptoms. If the PCR test is positive, the family need to self-isolate for a period of 10 days.

Who can use the tests provided by the academy?

Only your child. These tests are not for use by other family members. If a member of your household has symptoms, they should book a PCR test immediately. In addition, the DfE communicated at the end of last week that those living in households with school age children (or are in your support bubbles) are now also eligible for free asymptomatic lateral flow testing. These tests will not be provided by the academy but can either be ordered online or collected from local centres. Further information can be found here – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend the academy whether they take part in testing or not. I am strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend the academy as safely as possible. Please contact Mrs. Tracey Bates, our COVID-19 Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice on our website. Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to NHS and the academy, regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your child's name
- your child's test result



Principal: Mr R Gummery
Vice Principal: Miss K Athawes
Vice Principal: Mrs L Fraser

- the reference number on the test Kit

You will also need to tell the academy the test result.

Under UK law, the academy can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your child in school.

The academy will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19 and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice on our school website: www.ercallwood.co.uk

Thank you once again for your continued support with the measures we are undertaking to navigate this period and keep all within our academy community safe. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards

R Gummery

Principal

