

16th March 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Home testing for JQA Students

Dear Parent / Carer,

Thank you for your support during our first week of welcoming students back to the Academy. It has been wonderful to see them back in classrooms, learning in an enriched environment with their teachers and friends.

Following our on-site 'lateral flow device' (LFD) testing in our Seacole Centre, we will shortly be moving to home testing. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic, therefore, home testing will become a vital part of keeping our community safe. Because of this, we are strongly encouraging all students to be involved, so we can reduce asymptomatic transmission within school, and affectively isolate COVID-19 outbreaks as they occur.

Your son / daughter will be issued with their Home Testing Kits on **Wednesday 17th March** and will be required to take these tests twice weekly (every **Sunday** and **Wednesday** evening). Home testing will begin on Wednesday 17th March, and a notification will be sent to you via our Piota app to remind you of when to test. All testing kits are free of charge.

Students will be given an instruction leaflet that contains information on how to test and how to record the results. Additional information about the testing can be found here: [Understanding lateral flow antigen testing for people without symptoms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms).

FAQs

Where do we put the testing equipment once we have completed the test?

Once you have completed your test and have recorded the results, you can put it in your usual household waste bin.

Positive / Negative / Void Results:

If your result is **negative**, record the result as required by using the following link [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result) or by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. No further action is needed from you.

If your result is **positive**, record the result as stated above and book a **PCR** test. Whilst you await the results from your PCR test, you must follow national guidelines for self-isolation. You can book a PCR test using the following link [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus).

If your result is Void, you will be required to take the test again.

Sharing Your Child's Results

In addition to the above, **all** results (negative and positive) must be recorded on our school database. You can access this here: [Student Covid-19 Test Result \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)

I have symptoms, do I still take part in home testing?

No. Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste), you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Do we test over the Easter Holidays?

Your son / daughter should continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays. We will send home additional testing kits for this.

What if we injure ourselves whilst testing?

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the testing kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: [Official MHRA side effect and adverse incident reporting site for coronavirus treatments and vaccines | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

What if my son / daughter has been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

Your son / daughter will be notified that they are a close contact by the Academy and you will be contacted. They will be required to self-isolate as per government guidance.

Is testing mandatory?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not; however, we are strongly encouraging all students to participate, as testing at home will allow your son / daughter to attend the Academy as safely as possible.

How is my data used?

Please find our Home Testing Privacy Notice on our website by following this link:

If you have any questions, please contact the Academy office by calling 0121 729 7220, or alternatively via email: enquiry@jewelleryquarter.academy.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mr G. Williams
Headteacher