

Orchard School Bristol

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Dear Parents and Carers

COVID Home Testing of students

The first three supervised Lateral Flow tests on site have now been successfully completed, and we are moving to home testing for students.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. By getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week, we will help stop the virus spreading, keeping our students, families and staff safer.

Testing does not replace existing protective measures, and we still expect students to follow the usual precautions of wearing masks, regular handwashing/hand sanitising and keeping distance wherever they can.

Who can have a home testing kit?

Anyone who has been tested three times in school will automatically get a home kit.

The school has been provided with sufficient kits for all students, even those who did not choose to get the testing in school. We would like to encourage more students to take part, and we know that some parents were unsure whether to give consent or not. We will therefore give all children the opportunity to take a test kit home, if they wish, so they can choose to take a test at home. We don't want to disadvantage anyone from getting access to a kit and the opportunity to get tested.

If you want to discuss this with your child, please do so today. If your child chooses to take a kit, it is still your decision whether they carry out the test at home or not. We just wish to give you a choice.

How to use a Home Testing Kit

The instructions are all in the test packs and guidance is included here too: [Guide to Testing](#)

There is a very quick video about how to help your child do the test is here, which we recommend watching: [Short Guide to Lateral Flow Testing with Dr Amir Khan](#)
This video is on our website, under the tab Parents/Coronavirus Key Information

The home test will give a result in around 30 minutes.



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Your child should test themselves twice a week, 3 to 5 days apart – for example Monday and Thursday. Ideally, this would be in the morning before school, but if this is not convenient, please do it the evening before.

Reporting results

Results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace, whether positive, negative or void. You can do this here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If you prefer, you can call 119 – which is free to call – and lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

If you have a positive Covid test, please contact us directly at: sbm@orchard.tila.school
We will then be in touch with you. Your child will need to stay off school and isolate until they have a PCR test which confirms the result. If the PCR test says positive as well, then your child will need to self-isolate. To get a PCR test, you can contact 119.

Students aged 12 to 17 are able to self-test and report with adult supervision. An adult should report for an 11-year-old.

Testing for parents and carers, households and bubbles

Rapid testing is now available for all families, and the government is encouraging everyone to participate in twice-weekly testing to help stop the spread.

You must not use the test kits allocated to your child. Instead, you can access tests for your family by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more about this, please click on the following link:

[Household Testing](#)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular COVID-19 testing, but remind you that no child will be refused education if they do not participate in home testing.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Julia Hinchliffe
Headteacher