



CRESTWOOD
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

3 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Home Testing for COVID programme

What this means for Crestwood:

It is fantastic to know we will have all our students back in school on Monday 8th March 2021. Our first two rounds of testing have been very successful and we will complete the third and final school test on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week in school. Students have already been given their appointments and they are at identical times to their previous two appointments.

We desperately want to keep every child and every teacher in school from now until the Summer. Online learning was very successful for us but nothing beats being in a classroom to learn and being in a community to socialise. To keep everyone safe and prevent school closure, the government would like everyone in schools, staff and students, to be tested twice a week for COVID.

Sadly, if we were to do this in school there would simply be no time left for teaching which defeats the point of opening in the first place. As a result, the government has issued clear simple to use tests to be conducted at home with the results being logged with the NHS and any test results with us too.

We have had a little time to get used to conducting the tests in school and it is now really routine for us, despite us not being medically trained. There is clear guidance on how to do the test and these are listed below:

- [How to self test at home full booklet](#)
- [Link to video to self test](#)
- [Webinar 1 how to test and report results](#)
- [Privacy notice for Students](#) and [Annex A to all Privacy Notices](#)
- [Reporting result online](#)

Although in the guidance it suggests you must collect the testing kits from school, with your consent we will issue them to your child to bring home.

Please could you complete the attached form [here](#) to inform us of your intentions re tests. The deadline for completion is **Monday 8th March and test kits will be distributed during the week of 15th March**. If you do not complete the form we will not issue any tests to you.

Background Information:

Testing will continue to be a vital part of our response to coronavirus (COVID-19), supporting the roadmap set out by the Prime Minister earlier this week. As the Government cautiously ease restrictions in England, starting with the return of schools and moving towards more social mixing at the end of March, we need to be sure that each COVID-19 case is found as quickly and as easily as possible. Although cases are declining, everyone needs to play their part to keep the virus under control while keeping children and young people in school.

Crestwood Community School

Shakespeare Campus, Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 4FZ | Cherbourg Campus, Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5EL

Email: adminoffice@crestwood.hants.sch.uk Tel: 023 8064 1232 Web: www.crestwood.hants.sch.uk



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As laid out in the roadmap, secondary school and college students will now be tested twice a week, receiving three initial tests at school or college before transitioning to twice weekly home testing.

In addition to this, the government has confirmed twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people.

With about a third of individuals with coronavirus showing no symptoms and potentially spreading it without knowing, targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases within households are found and prevented from entering schools and colleges, helping to keep educational settings safe.

Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak.

All households with primary and secondary school and college age children, and childcare and support bubbles, will be encouraged to start regular twice-weekly testing as schools return. As with student testing, this is encouraged but not mandatory. A secondary PCR test will be required for positive lateral flow tests which are taken at home, either through at home PCR testing or at a local PCR testing site. Getting a rapid test is quick and convenient. The expanded regular testing offer for people without symptoms will be delivered through:

- testing in-person via workplace testing
- local authority test sites
- collection at a local PCR test site during specific test collection time windows
- a new home ordering service, which once launched on 1 March will allow people to order lateral flow tests online to be delivered to their home

Rapid, regular testing for new groups is one of a range of new measures designed to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and support the successful return of more learners to face-to-face education and childcare settings. Testing is an additional tool, working in conjunction with other protective measures that are in place in schools to help protect staff and students including social distancing, handwashing and face covering. Schools and colleges will not be expected to provide the test kits to families or administer the family testing process.

Together we can keep your children safe and in school where they belong. #crestwoodfamily

Yours sincerely

Krista Dawkins
Headteacher

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