

16th March 2021

Parents and Carers of TQEA students

Dear Parents and Carers

We have almost completed the return to school 3 tests for each student and would like to thank all of our parents who were able to sign up for this mass testing exercise. We would also like to thank our students for taking part in such a polite and well behaved way, and for our volunteers, governors and staff who have undertaken the tests, collated the results, inputted all of the individual data and uploaded the details to the NHS/Government site.

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 continue to identify those individuals and we can do this in school by students and staff carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

As you are aware, [the Government has recently announced that](#) all secondary and college aged students will be offered home tests to make the continued return to school safer for everyone.

Testing students at home

Home test kits will be given to students, whose parents recently gave consent for on-site testing, tomorrow (Wednesday) at the end of the school day.

Should there be any parents or carers that did not give consent for on-site testing but would like to receive home tests, they can request a supply by emailing us at info@tqea.org.uk.

Students shouldn't do a Home (LFT) test if they have had a positive PCR in the last 90 days. Please let us know if your child is in the 90 day window [here](#), we will then be able to allocate home tests once they are able to complete them.

We would like students to take their tests before school on Mondays and Thursdays, commencing the week beginning 22nd March 2021. You will need to tell TQEA the result of each test by completing this [online form](#).

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive a pack of 2 boxes containing 3 tests per box with a leaflet on how to take the test and also how to report the results to [NHS Test and Trace](#).

Make sure students have enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning on Mondays and Thursdays. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if required. You need to report test results both to us and to the Government NHS track and Trace results page.

Taking the test

As previously mentioned, we will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

[Help and support is also available here](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test. 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?

- You need to report your result to [NHS Test and Trace](#)
- and to TQEA via our [online form](#)

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 should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at School/college).

If the result of the home test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test. **Negative and void results** should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and to [school](#).

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, students should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing their hands.

If you, or anyone in your household, gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

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. I am strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Please contact Mr Bovington, our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing via 01827 712477 or info@tqea.org.uk. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Harding
The Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy

Some frequently asked questions

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 below on how personal information and test results are shared and the privacy notice below. Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and [school](#) regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Can my child take the test themselves?

- Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.
- Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the [pupil/student] to take the test if they need support.
- Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.
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Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** and please also tell the school.

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus

LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they 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 & Trace and your school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is 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.

What if my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and [school](#).

Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

How do you report the result?

If it is positive, negative or void) using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and [school](#).

Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information
- attend 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 (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students](#).

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
- the reference number on the test Kit
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You will also need to tell your child's school their test result.

Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

Schools and colleges 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 below.

TQEA – COVID-19 Testing of Students in Secondary Schools and Colleges Privacy Statement

Ownership of the Personal Data

To enable the Covid-19 testing to be completed at TQEA, we need to process personal data, including the sharing of personal data where this is allowed under data protection legislation. TQEA is the Data Controller for the data required for the management of tests and implementing local arrangements in the event of a positive test.

We will process personal data relating to students under article 6.1(f) of the UK GDPR – it is necessary in the legitimate interest of the data controller. We will process special category personal data under the provisions of article 9.2(i) of the UK GDPR, and Part 1 of Schedule 1(3) of DPA 2018 where it is in the public interest on Public Health Grounds to ensure we can minimise the spread of COVID in a timely manner and enable us to continue to deliver education services as safely and securely as possible. This data is processed under the obligations set out in Public Health legislation (Regulations 3(1) and (4) of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI)) which allows the sharing of data for COVID related purposes and where it is carried out by a health care professional **OR** someone who owes an equivalent duty of confidentiality to that data.

Ownership of the Personal Data you share with DHSC

Every time you use a lateral flow test you must report the results. More details can be found here - [Report a COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) is the data controller for the information that you transfer to them about you and your test results. For more information about what the DHSC do with your data please see their [COVID-19 Privacy Notice](#)

TQEA remains the Data Controller for the data we retain about you for the management of tests and implementing local arrangements in the event of a positive test.

You should read both this Privacy Notice and the DHSC COVID-19 Privacy Notice to understand how your personal data is used prior to taking a test.

Personal Data involved

The following personal data is processed by TQEA in relation to your test:

- Name
- Unique code assigned to each individual test and which will become the primary reference number for the tests.
- Test result

For more information about what the DHSC do with your data please see their [COVID-19 Privacy Notice](#)

How we store your personal information

TQEA will maintain a test kit log which will record against your name details of the testing kit which has been provided to you. TQEA may also record Personal Data about you in its internal COVID-19 test register (TQEA's COVID-19 test register will not be shared with DHSC). This information will only be stored securely on locally managed systems with appropriate access controls in TQEA and will only be accessible to personnel involved in the management of tests and implementing local arrangements in the event of a positive test.

TQEA will retain its test kit log and COVID-19 test register for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of the last entries made by TQEA into them.

For more information about what the DHSC do with your data please see their [COVID-19 Privacy Notice](#)

Processing of Personal Data Relating to Positive test results

We will use this information to enact our own COVID isolation and control processes without telling anyone who it is that has received the positive test.

For more information about what the DHSC do with your data please see their [COVID-19 Privacy Notice](#)
This information will be kept by the TQEA for a period of twelve (12) months and by the NHS for eight (8) years.

Processing of Personal Data Relating to Negative and Void test results

We will record a negative and void result for the purpose of stock controls of tests and general performance of the testing process.

Data Sharing Partners

The personal data associated with test results will be shared with:

- DHSC, NHS, PHE – to ensure that they can undertake the necessary Test and Trace activities and to conduct research and compile statistical information about Coronavirus.
- Your GP – the NHS may share the information you provide with your GP to maintain your medical records and to offer support and guidance as necessary. Any data you provide to TQEA will not be shared with your GP.
- Local Government to undertake local public health duties and to record and analyse local spreads.

Personal Data in the TQEA's test kit log will be shared with DHSC to identify which test kit has been given to which individual in the event of a product recall. TQEA will not share its internal COVID-19 results register with DHSC.

Your Rights

Under data protection law, you have rights including:

- **Your right of access** - You have the right to ask us for copies of your personal information.
- **Your right to rectification** - You have the right to ask us to rectify personal information you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask us to complete information you think is incomplete.
- **Your right to erasure** - You have the right to ask us to erase your personal information in certain circumstances.
- **Your right to restriction of processing** - You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.
- **Your right to object to processing** - You have the right to object to the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.
- **Your right to data portability** - You have the right to ask that we transfer the personal information you gave us to another organisation, or to you, in certain circumstances.

You are not required to pay any charge for exercising your rights. If you make a request, we have one month to respond to you. Please contact us at info@tqea.org.uk if you wish to make a request.

How to complain

If you have any concerns about our use of your personal information, you can make a complaint to us at info@tgea.org.uk

You can also complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how we have used your data.

The ICO's address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113