

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you to all our students and parents/carers for your support while we carried out regular Covid-19 testing at school in the last couple of weeks.

Everyone's involvement has been fantastic, and we are so proud of the many pupils that have taken part.

In line with recent government guidance, the testing programme has moved to twice-weekly testing for pupils at home, including during the Easter holidays. This is so we can continue to stop the spread of the virus in our school.

Along with the other protective measures we have put in place to keep our school safe, regular testing will help to protect your child(ren) and the whole school community.

Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 do not show any symptoms and can spread the virus without knowing. This is why it's so important to take a test even if you feel fine.

Please see below more information about the home-testing process. While testing is voluntary, we strongly encourage every pupil, and adults who live with them, to test at home, where possible.

Thank you for your support.

Taking the test

All secondary school pupils will be offered Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests to take home.

Pupils will need to take a test twice a week at home, every 3 or 4 days apart. Children aged 12 to 17 years of age can test themselves. Children 11 years and under must be tested by an adult.

Instructions on how to self-swab and report the result is included with the test kit. Testing is voluntary and pupils will be able to attend school (if they have no symptoms) whether they take part in testing or not.

LFD home tests should not be used if pupils have symptoms of coronavirus. These pupils should self-isolate immediately, get a PCR test, and follow national guidelines.

Reporting the result

It takes 30 minutes to wait for a result once the test is completed.

Pupils must [report the result online to NHS Test and Trace](#) right away. This needs to be done whether the result is negative, positive, or void (unclear).

Results can also be given over the phone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

Pupils will also need to report the result of each test to the school.

What if my child tests positive?

If your child's LFD test at home is positive, they will need to self-isolate immediately and [get a PCR test](#) to confirm the result.

At-home testing is very accurate, but a confirmatory PCR is still needed because, unlike in school, the test was done without supervision.

If the PCR test result is also positive, pupils must continue to isolate for 10 days. Please let the school know if your child tests positive so we can record the absence, and make sure others are safe.

What if my child tests negative?

If the LFD test is negative, pupils go back to school as usual but should still follow all coronavirus advice including regular handwashing and social distancing, and wearing a face covering where recommended.

If the PCR test results is negative, pupils can stop self-isolating and go back to school.

Please update the school of the PCR result.

What if the result is not clear?

If the LFD test is unclear (void), pupils will need to do another test.

What if my child is unable to take a test at home?

All pupils can choose to get tested at school under the supervision of a staff member if they are unable to test themselves.

Twice-weekly testing for family members

The home testing kits supplied by the school is for the use of pupils only. It is important that these are not used for anyone else.

Other family members, as well as those in their childcare or support bubble, can get twice-weekly testing in the following ways:

- [Get tested at a symptom-free testing site](#) across the borough - no need to book
- [Collect a home test kit](#) from a test site (Community Collect)
- [Order a home test kit online](#) and have it delivered to your home

Home testing kits are available for collection from the following test centres:

Asymptomatic Test Sites (LFT)

Chingford Assembly Hall
Jubilee Centre
One Hoe Street
Leyton Cricket Ground
The Depot (*Staff only*)

Community Collect Sites (Home-test LFT)

Wood Street Library
Leytonstone Library
Leyton Library
Higham Park Pop-Up Pilot

Local Testing Sites (PCR)

Church Lane Car Park
Stanley Road
Linford Park

MTU (PCR)

Homebase Car Park

Test Sites at Neighbouring Boroughs (PCR)

Lea Valley
Cranbrook Rd Car Park, Woodford

Please take advantage of this offer, and please check the web site link [Collect a home test kit](#) for the latest information before travelling. Getting tested regularly helps to protect your family and keep schools open as safely as possible.

There is a step by step [video guide to Covid-19 self-testing](#) and [instructions on how to self-test at home](#) available on the government website.

You can also find more information on the [safety measures schools are putting place](#) to keep everyone safe on the council's website.