



25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Lateral Flow Testing for Pupils- March 2021

As you may be aware, the government have asked that pupils are offered 3 lateral flow tests in school to support the safe reopening of schools on Monday 8th March. The reason we need to carry them out in school is to ensure that pupils understand how to self-swab effectively before we introduce home testing kits the week commencing 15th March - I will write to you about this in due course.

Lateral flow testing gives us the opportunity to identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic people **currently** infected with SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus responsible for the ongoing pandemic. **We have been asked to facilitate 3 tests with 3-5 days between each one.** We are appealing to you to support us with this process, but I must remind you that **all testing is voluntary.**

We will not prohibit any pupil from attending school if they do not take a test.

We are keen to do everything we can to get all of our pupils back in to lessons safely, swiftly and with as little disruption as possible to the quality first teaching that they need. To enable this, we have carefully planned the testing schedule outlined below.

Test 1 - Wednesday 3rd March - Friday 5th March - Before the full reopening of school

We are offering a test slot for each year group in the week **BEFORE** the planned national reopening of schools and educational settings. **This will allow us to fully open our doors to all of our pupils on Monday 8th March instead of having a phased return.**

It is essential that pupils only attend during their allocated time slot, as we must keep pupils within their year group bubbles and maintain social distancing as far as possible.

Dropping off and picking up your child:

If you are dropping your child off, please do this on the **school bus bay no earlier than 10 minutes before their allocated time slot.** Please use the bus bay as a one-way system and simply drop off your child. Pupils will be directed to their registration base by a member of staff.

Picking up after the test: The Olde House Pub on Loundsley Green Road have kindly agreed that you can wait in their car park for your child to return after their test. We will expect pupils to walk sensibly to the Olde House after their test. **We must insist that you follow this arrangement to allow us to keep our pupils and site safe. Please do not return to school to collect your child.**

Any pupils who require disabled access can use the staff car park.

Live, Love and Learn in the Light of Christ

Pupils do not need to be in uniform. They will need the following to complete the registration process efficiently:

- **A mobile phone with a camera to scan the QR code on the registration card (if they do not own such a device, we will accommodate them online)**
- **Parent/carer email address**
- **Parent/carer mobile number**
- **Address**
- **Postcode**

Please write the information above on a slip of paper or save it in your child's phone in order to cut and paste into the registration site.

The registration process will be led by a member of staff so that the pupils understand the process. This can take up to 20 minutes, and then we will send for each form group in a staggered and controlled manner to take their test. **Depending upon the number of pupils attending and the flow of testing, your child will be ready for collection from 30 minutes to 90 minutes after arrival.**

As soon as your child has taken their test, they must leave the school site and make their way to the Olde House to be collected if necessary. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CHILD.

Please note: Work **will not** be set on the day your child is scheduled to have a test. We do not wish to add extra pressure to pupils by expecting them to catch up work that they miss through no fault of their own.

School buses will not resume service until Monday 8th March.

You will be notified of the test result via the NHS Test and Trace site (text or email) usually within two hours (depending on what details you give your child to input during registration).

What happens next?

- If your child receives a negative result, no further action is necessary, and your child will return to school on Monday 8th March.

What to do if your child receives a positive result:

- Your child and anyone they live with must self-isolate to avoid spreading the infection to other people.
- The self-isolation period includes the day you had the test and the next 10 full days. You must notify us immediately via this email address: attendance@stmaryschesterfield.org.uk
- You may be contacted by the NHS or your local council and asked for information to help the NHS alert your close contacts.
- Follow this link for more information: [Your coronavirus \(COVID-19\) test result - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Test One Schedule

Wednesday 3rd March

Year 7	08.45 - 10.45
Year 8	11.00 -13.00
Year 9	13.30 - 15.30

Thursday 4th March

Year 10	08.45 - 10.45
Year 11	11.00 - 13.00

Friday 5th March

Year 12	08.45 - 10.45
Year 13	11.00 - 13.00

Please note that the times above cannot be changed. If your child cannot attend their allotted slot, they can still attend school on Monday 8th March and participate in tests 2 and 3 in school.

You could also take your child to a local testing centre if you cannot make the times above and wish to have them tested: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/disease-control/coronavirus/community-testing/community-testing-for-covid-19.aspx>

Please take some time to look at the link on how to self-swab for the test. A member of the Leadership Group and First Aid staff will always be present to advise and reassure your child, but they must carry out the swab aspect of the test themselves.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How to do your test COVID 19 instruction leaflet for schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How_to_do_your_test_COVID_19_instruction_leaflet_for_schools.pdf)

Tests 2 & 3 - Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March - During the normal school day

Registration for tests 2 and 3

Your child will be issued with a registration card ahead of tests 2 and 3. We would like you to register your child's test THE NIGHT BEFORE they take it in school. You must not register it any earlier than 24 hours before the test, or the unique barcode will become invalid.

Please follow the steps at the end of this letter to help you register your child's test. Your child must put their registration card inside their blazer pocket for safe keeping.

It is essential that you register your child's test at home to allow lessons to be taught as effectively as possible during the school day. We do not have the capacity to complete registrations in school from Monday 8th March.

We will send for your child during their allocated day to carry out the test.

You will receive the result as with test 1, but we will also contact you if your child's test is positive so that you can collect them from school immediately. You must then follow the self-isolation rules outlined above.

Test 2 schedule (registration cards issued to pupils on 3rd, 4th, 5th March - if your child cannot attend on the first test day, please collect a registration card from Reception on the dates above)

Monday 8 th March (register test Sunday 7 th pm)	Year 7 - 9
Tuesday 9 th March (register test Monday 8 th pm)	Year 10 - 13

Wednesday 10th March - Registration cards for test 3 to be issues to pupils during Registration

Test 3 schedule

Thursday 11th March (register tests Wednesday 10th pm)	Year 7 - 9
Friday 12th March (register tests Thursday 11th pm)	Year 10 - 13

We hope that with this schedule we can test the vast majority of our pupils 3 times by Friday 12th March with minimal disruption to teaching and learning.

Once again, this is a voluntary process. Do not worry if your child misses a test or you do not wish to give consent. I have attached the consent form again for anyone who still needs to complete it. This should be completed and returned if consent is or is not given. **We will not prevent any child from attending school if they have not been tested for whatever reason.**

As you can appreciate, it is possible that there may be issues or delays with test results depending upon how much traffic the NHS test and trace site is managing at any one time.

We thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with this process. We appreciate that it is an unusual situation for all concerned, but we have planned carefully to get things back to some form of normality for our pupils as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Miss H McKay
Senior Assistant Headteacher

IMPORTANT!

This asymptomatic testing programme does not replace current guidance for those with symptoms or those identified as a close contact of a positive case. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known. Testing also does not replace basic preventative measures such as regular handwashing, PPE and social distancing.

How to register your child's lateral flow test at home:

- Scan the QR code with your phone camera
- Open the webpage
- Accept all cookies
- The page should say REGISTER A CORONAVIRUS TEST (lateral flow test)
- Click 'Start now'
- Follow the instructions- you can register with or without setting up an NHS account.
- SCAN MY BARCODE- scan the one on the top right of your registration card with your camera
- Check that the barcode details appear in the boxes. Continue
- **Enter site ID: SPTZ- Select 'St. Mary's Catholic High School'. Continue**
- Are you doing 7-day repeat testing? NO
- When will you take the coronavirus test? **Select the date your child will be taking it- see schedule above.**
- **Enter the hour as 10 am for all test registrations.**
- Enter **YOUR CHILD'S** name. Continue
- Enter **YOUR CHILD'S** date of birth. Continue
- Enter **YOUR CHILD'S** gender. Continue
- Enter **YOUR CHILD'S** ethnic group or click 'prefer not to say'. Continue
- Do you travel to nursery, work or a place of education? **YES - I GO TO NURSERY, SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY. Continue**
- Which place do you attend? **SECONDARY SCHOOL.** Continue
- Enter the details of this place- **PREFER NOT TO SAY** (it saves time!). Continue
- Do you currently have coronavirus symptoms? **NO.** Continue **(IF YOUR CHILD IS DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS, you should book a free NHS test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known. They must not come into school.)**
- What country do you live in? **ENGLAND.** Continue
- Enter the first line of your address and postcode- **DO NOT LEAVE A SPACE IN YOUR POST CODE.** Continue
- Do you have an email address? **YES- Enter your parent/carers email address.** Continue
- What's your mobile number? **Enter your parent/carers mobile number.** Continue
- Do you have a landline number? Optional
- Do you know your NHS number? Optional
- Have you had a coronavirus vaccine? YES/ NO. Continue
- **Check your answers carefully, especially the mobile number and email address. SAVE AND CONTINUE.**
- Complete the security check - I'm not a robot. **SAVE AND CONTINUE**
- **REGISTRATION CONFIRMED**
- **Please ensure that the card has your child's name and form on it, and they put it in their blazer pocket ready for the next day.**

IF YOU CANNOT REGISTER THE TEST ON A SMART PHONE, PLEASE GO TO THIS WEBSITE TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS <https://gov.uk/enter-lateral-flow-test>