

17 March 2021

## Update on twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students

Dear Parent/Carer,

Students have now completed three COVID-19 tests in school. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who provided consent to support this testing in school. Thank you also to our excellent COVID Team who have carried out almost 1200 tests over the last two weeks. From next week, students will complete a test at home twice a week.

### Home Testing

We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child on **Friday 19 March**. Tests should be between 3 – 5 days apart. We recommend every Sunday and Wednesday. This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

### Reporting results

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. It is important to keep a note of your child's results and share with school or college as well by telephone 01642 763244 or email [info@thornabyacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@thornabyacademy.org.uk)

### Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests](https://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 on school household testing visit [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Butcher  
Principal