



Mary Webb School & Science College, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 0TG

Headteacher: Mr P J Lowe-Werrell

TEL: 01743 792100

FAX: 01743 792110

Email: admin@marywebbschool.com

Website: www.marywebbschool.com

18th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now completed the three student Lateral Flow Tests within school on students. I would like to thank you for your cooperation with this, which has run smoothly and been very successful.

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 identify those individuals. We can do this in Mary Webb School & Science College by students carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3 - 4 days apart.

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.

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the 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.

Testing students at home

Students will be provided with two home testing kits from school either today or tomorrow. Tests are free of charge. Students will receive a pack of 7 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

We would like students to take their tests before school on a Monday and Thursday. Please ensure they have enough time to do the test before coming to school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed.

You will be required to report the result of each test whether it is negative, positive or void via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. If the test result is positive you will also be required to inform us at Mary Webb Science & Science College and order a confirmatory PCR test. 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. If the result of the test is unclear (void) they should carry out another test. A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, your, child should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing their hands and observing social distancing.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow national guidelines on self-isolation and testing.

Taking the test

Students should take the test, before coming into school, twice a week. 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 below

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ> .

Help and support is available, including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-antibody-test-kit-guides-in-different-languages>

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your household waste bin.

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

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.

Please contact our Business Manager, Mr Salmon, who is also our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

PJ Lowe-Werrell

Mr P J Lowe-Werrell
Headteacher