

Registered Office Address:

Penair School
St Clement
Truro
Cornwall
TR1 1TN

5th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

The Government have asked secondary schools to roll out a programme of Covid-19 rapid testing for all staff and pupils. Along with the other protective measure we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils remain in school safely.

Testing will initially be within school with pupils receiving 3 lateral flow tests, this is to give pupils the opportunity to carry out the tests under the supervision of a trained member of staff from the test centre. Testing will then move to home testing which will continue until the Easter holidays which start on Friday 2nd April. We have not yet heard whether the Government intend to continue this after Easter and we will write to you nearer the time with an update.

What is rapid testing?

Lateral flow device (LFD) testing is 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.

Is the testing compulsory?

We would encourage all pupils to take part in the testing programme however this is a voluntary testing programme. Any pupil without consent will not be tested in school and is not required to carry out a home test. If your child is not taking part in testing and does develop symptoms they should self-isolate and arrange to take a PCR test.

How will test kits be distributed?

Test kits will be handed out to pupils by their form tutors once they have received 3 lateral flow tests within school. This will be the week commencing the 15th March so please look out for the test kits coming home. We will send a reminder to parents in this week regarding the test kits.

Who should carry out the test?

Pupils aged 11 should have the test carried out by a parent/carer. Pupils aged 12-17 can carry out the test themselves supervised by a parent/carer.

How do I carry out the test?

We would like parents to carry out the test on a Sunday and Thursday evening with their child. The YouTube link below provides “how to” videos on lateral flow testing produced by NHS Test and Trace. Parents will also receive a step-by-step guide with the test kit.

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

What do I do with the test result?

Once you have carried out the lateral flow test you will need to report the result to NHS Test and Trace by visiting www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Parents also need to inform school of their child’s test result and this should be done through the following link or by scanning the QR code using their smart phone camera.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=b2I7yOXzNkeaA4AbL6uiYvEBpW4sB8tLqLS2kDE5gaBUMkpDVjVTWERHMzZaRIQ3T1YxUUhHRkNZRC4u>



What if my child tests positive?

Pupils who test positive from a lateral flow test will need to take a further ‘PCR test’ on the same day (or as soon as possible). Parents can book a test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119. You can also visit one of the drive-through test sites as it is faster than requesting a home test. They are located in:

- Truro - Tregurra park and ride
- Falmouth - 51 Wellington Terrace

During the time while they are waiting the PCR result pupils will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result the pupil should self-isolate for 10 days from the positive test date and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Pupils will be able to return to school and resume their activities as normal.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

If there is a positive case of Covid-19 within school the pupils that have had close contact will be identified using classroom seating plans. Parents will be informed and will be asked to collect their child from school. Close contacts will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. If the positive case is found to be negative after the confirmatory PCR test then the close contact students can return to school. If the PCR confirms a positive test results students should continue to self-isolate for 10 days.

What if my child develops symptoms?

The Lateral Flow testing programme is for pupils with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) **they must immediately self-isolate**, and book a test by calling 119, visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or visiting a drive-through test centre.

If my child has previously had Covid-19 do they still do the home tests?

If your child has had a confirmed positive *case* of Covid-19 they should not have a lateral flow test for 90 days following the positive result. This includes in school and home testing. However, if your child develops symptoms or is identified as a close contact, they should self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

If my child has had a Covid-19 vaccination do they still do the home tests?

Pupils who have received the vaccination should continue to be tested.

If you do have further question that are not covered above, please email them to enquiries@penair.cornwall.sch.uk

I must remind you that the lateral flow testing is for asymptomatic pupils. If you or your child have been in contact outside of school with someone who has tested positive you must continue to follow the national self-isolation and testing rules.

Yours Sincerely

James Davidson
Headteacher