



St James Infant and Pre-School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Lateral Flow Testing

Further to the information in this week's newsletter, I would like to make you aware that from 1st March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- Through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- At a local test site – you can collect 2 packs of home test kits. Each pack contains 7 tests.
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site – most collection points are open from 1.30 – 7.00 p.m. You do not need to make an appointment.
- By ordering a home test kit online – (only if you cannot get tests through other methods).
<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. If you do not have symptoms, you can now access regular, rapid coronavirus testing. Tests are fast, easy and completely free.

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)
- report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test
- report your result online - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock has said:

Regular testing of households and childcare support bubbles of primary and secondary school children is another tool we are making available to help keep schools safe. We know that 1 in 3 people with COVID-19

don't have any symptoms, so targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases are kept out of schools and colleges.

Professor Yvonne Doyle, Medical Director at Public Health England, said:

These rapid tests help uncover hidden cases of the virus and break chains of transmission, stopping outbreaks before they occur. Combined with other protective measures, they are a vital tool to help us lower infection rates and ensure that they stay low.

I hope you find this information useful. I would encourage you all to take up the offer of twice weekly rapid testing – it's quick and painless and could help save lives.

Best wishes,

Gail Gynn

Head teacher