



2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## COVID-19 Testing Consent – An Update

As I hope you are already aware, as part of the return to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, students are being strongly encouraged to partake in a programme of mass testing to identify asymptomatic cases within the school community. Following the first three tests (which will be undertaken over the next few weeks on the school site) students will be provided with home test kits to continue twice weekly testing at home. A reminder that the first tests will take place as per the schedule below:

	<b>Testing Day</b>	<b>First Full Day Back</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Years 11 and 13</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Years 10 and 12</b>	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 8</b>	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 9</b>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March

Please note as we have already said that students will need to make their own way to school/be driven by a parent/carer to undertake their test. As soon as testing is complete, they will need to return home. Parents/carers will be contacted after this only if the student tests positive. Exact time slots for testing will be circulated later this week which is linked to new consent arrangements below.

### Consent

**I am aware that we have previously contacted parents and carers regarding COVID-19 consent testing and many of you have already given consent. However the form has now been amended to meet the current situation and having taken further external advice, we are now asking all parents and carers to complete the new form in all cases, i.e. whether you are giving consent or not.**

Testing as we have said is not compulsory but is strongly advised. If you do not wish for your child to take part in the testing programme then you will need to formally withhold consent using the form below. If you have more than one child at Chew Valley School, you will need to complete a form for each child. It is recommended that anyone having previously received a positive PCR test result should not complete lateral flow testing within the 90 day period following the positive result.

Your prompt return of this consent will be really appreciated by us and hugely help our planning so that we can quickly circulate testing times. The final deadline for submission of the consent form is 9am on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March so that we can process this data prior to testing starting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please use the following link to access the COVID-19 testing consent form for March 2021:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qpmW0ReG40mv30Ta8jBWERSqt3cPrdI Gjq30gCz4vzIUQVVYRTZJOFRCskVOWkwzMU8wVjM4TIBLWC4u>

### How does testing work?

Those taking a COVID-19 lateral flow test will be supported by staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff will oversee the swab process, but the child will administer the swab directly themselves. Testing will be offered free of charge. The link to the film I circulated last week which covers how this happens is here once more: <https://vimeo.com/517100981/182820326a>

**What happens if the test is positive?**

Students testing positive using a home test kit will need to take a PCR test (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day or as soon as possible thereafter. There is no need for students to take a PCR test following a positive result from a lateral flow test in school. We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or alternatively parents/carers may go to <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time, whilst waiting for the PCR result (via text/email), students will need to self-isolate, meaning they cannot attend school or other normal activities. If the PCR test returns a positive result your child will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

**What happens if the test is negative?**

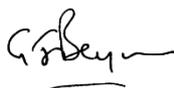
Students will be able to attend lessons as per the schedule above and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a lateral flow test, so if you do not hear anything you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

**What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at Chew Valley School is for people 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please do not come into school seeking a test. We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions [enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk). Please [click here](#) to read the privacy notice connected to this data collection.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher