

14 March 2021



**Newport Girls'
High School
Academy Trust**

Dear Parent or Carer & Students

From Thursday 18 March we will be moving to a home testing model for all students. 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 schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

The Government has recently announced that all secondary and college aged students will be offered tests to make the return to school safer for everyone and that testing should no longer happen in school unless a student is unable to test at home. In that instance, please contact us to discuss this further.

Testing students at home

Students in Years 7 to 12 will be asked to come to collect home test kits from Mrs Davenport in the Hall at a set time per class. Year 13 students need to collect their test kits this Tuesday or Wednesday from Reception as they have mock exams this week.

We would like students to take and upload test results before school on the following dates:

- Thursday 18th March (test Wednesday evening 17th March)
- Monday 22nd March (test Sunday evening 21st March)
- Thursday 25th March (test Wednesday evening 24th March)
- Monday 29th March (test Sunday evening 28th March)
- Thursday 1st April (test Wednesday evening 31st March)

Tests are supplied free of charge by the NHS. Students in Years 7-12 will receive two packs of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. As insufficient tests have been supplied and we are waiting on more supply, Year 13 students will receive one pack of 3 tests this week and receive their second pack week beginning 22nd March.

Taking the test

Students should take the test before coming into school twice a week. When they collect their tests, we will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test. Unfortunately, the leaflet supplied inside the sealed test is reportedly **incorrect**. The correct leaflet is the one without a picture on the cover. This will be explained to the students! There is also a [useful video to show you how to take the test here](#).

[Help and support](#) is available, including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing how to take the test.

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. Your child will be able to put it in your normal bin (household waste). Students under 12 years of age *should* apparently be swabbed by a parent. This is a national guideline and is different to testing in school!

This system does not replace symptomatic testing. If your child has symptoms, they should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the 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. You also need to [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) for your child following a positive lateral flow test.

If the result of the home test is unclear (invalid) you should do another test. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, students should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing hands and observing social distancing.

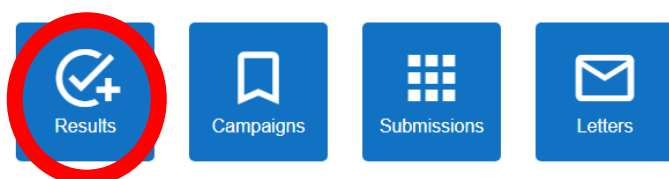
You need to report each test result (twice, we are sorry!)

Firstly, the result of each test needs to be reported using the [NHS Test & Trace self-report website](#).

Details are in home testing kit.

Secondly, you also need to tell the School the result of each test by following these instructions:

- i. Please visit <https://portal.schoolscreener.com>
- ii. Please log in with the details you used to give consent for the in-school testing. If you have forgotten the password, there is a forgotten password link.
- iii. Look at the bottom of the screen for four blue icons and click on the RESULTS icon from the list below:



- i. A list of previous test results will be displayed. Please click on **NEXT**
- ii. Choose the test outcome (**Negative, Positive Invalid**)
- iii. Leave the **test type** as LFT
- iv. Enter **“home test”** in notes/comments box
- v. Alter the date of test if incorrect date is shown
- vi. Click on **SAVE** (blue button, bottom right)
- vii. If you have more than one daughter at NGHS, please repeat the process.
- viii. Log out

In addition, if the result is positive, please call 01952 797550 or email urgent@nghs.org.uk as soon as possible. Thank you. We are not automatically alerted by the system to positive test results.

If you did not consent to in-school testing, but are happy to test using home-testing kits (or if you have any issues recording your result using the system above), please just email your child's result to covidreturn@nghs.org.uk as soon as it is known. Please ensure you include your child's name and form.

Why do we need your help?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to continue attending Newport Girls' High School whether they take part in testing or not. The previous consent that was completed was for testing in school. We have been asked to provide testing kits to all of our students and consent for home testing is given by opening and executing the tests. This can be decided by yourselves/your family.

In order to keep our school community as safe as possible, we are strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible. Thank you for your support.

Please contact us on the school number or by email through covidreturn@nghs.org.uk if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Yours sincerely

Miss H R Clarke
Acting Deputy Headteacher
Covid-Testing Lead

Mr M J Scott
Headteacher