



17th March 2021

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Richard Brand: Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

Since returning last week students at The Dean Academy have now completed three lateral flow tests at various points over the last two weeks. By taking these tests in school your child will now be familiar with how to take a sample and will now continue to complete further lateral flow tests from home.

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. At the Dean Academy we will do this by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart, until notified otherwise.

Testing students at home

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend The Dean Academy whether they take part or not. We are pleased that almost all of our school community has been tested already and we want this to continue to ensure the safety of our school community.

We will be issuing all students in the school their own test kit provided by the NHS. Students will take these home week ending Friday 19th March.

Taking the test

Your child should take the test twice a week, a leaflet giving instructions on how to do the test will be given with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#). We would like students to self-test on a Monday and Thursday evening. This means that students aren't rushing in the morning to complete the test, which can take up to 30 minutes to complete.

Students at The Dean Academy will take their first home test on the evening of Monday 22nd March 2021 and then report the results (see below).

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

There is no need to keep used test equipment. After the test result has been reported, you can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

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

What should you do after the LFD test?



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- 1) **If your child (or anyone in your household) tests positive you**, your household, and any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace and [order a confirmatory PCR test](#).
- 2) If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.
- 3) **Negative and void results** need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and The Dean Academy.

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

You need to report each test result

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

You will also need to inform The Dean Academy of the result of each test. We will send a message, with a link to you to record the result on a Monday and Thursday evening, as a reminder.

Why testing is important

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend The Dean Academy whether they take part in testing or not. That said we know the importance of Lateral Flow testing in making sure that the school is safe for our students, staff and wider community. Based on this, I am strongly encouraging all children to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other children to reduce the spread of the virus.

Please contact Mr Mooney, our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand

Head Teacher

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Declan Mooney

Deputy Headteacher

