

LINK19 College  
North Kent College  
LINK Centre Block H  
Lower Higham Road  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA12 2JJ



Tel: School 01474 365485  
Tel: LINK19 College 01322 629733  
Email: [enquiries@link19college.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@link19college.ac.uk)

Registered Office  
LINK19 College Ltd  
Ifield School  
Cedar Avenue  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA12 5JT

Head of LINK19 College:  
Miss Denise Moore

Executive Headteacher:  
Mrs Abigail Birch

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January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Covid-19 Testing Information

I would like to thank you all for your support since the start of the academic year.

Since September, there have been a number of significant changes to national and local guidance surrounding Covid-19. The government has asked all colleges to set up a facility to test staff and learners who are asymptomatic. This is to help break the chains of transmission within communities. We have now received our allocation of tests and PPE.

If your young person is displaying any Covid-19 symptoms, you should book a test at your nearest test centre and keep them at home to isolate.

The tests provided to college are the new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as '*lateral flow*' tests. These tests produce results within 30 minutes of being completed. They are also highly accurate - studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England show them to have 99.68% accuracy.

The '*lateral flow*' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of the nose and throat. For our learners, trained staff will oversee the swab process – but learners will be required to administer their own tests. Due to the invasive nature of the tests we do not wish to cause our learners undue distress. Therefore, if your young person does not have capacity to self-administer we will be unable to complete the test for them.

We are planning to start the testing scheme week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for LINK19 College learners. The tests are not compulsory. If you wish for your young person to be included in the testing process, please complete the consent form. Please remember that your young person must be able to self-administer the test. Specific protocols and instructions on how the tests will be carried out are also enclosed. We will be providing further information later this week.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Miss D Moore  
Head of LINK19 College

## HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1



YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2

YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU



3



BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4



10 SECS

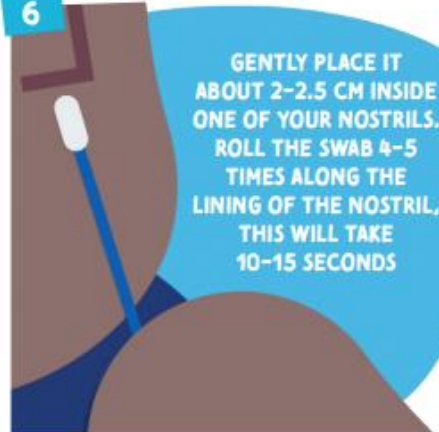
OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

5



REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6



GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7

AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8



YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9



YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

# COVID-related pupil/student absence – Printable Guidance for Parents and Pupils/Students (1/2)

The guidance below addresses what a positive or negative test result means for your child and your household, and the support available to you.

What happens if a **close contact** of my child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Device?

- They can consent to take part in 'serial contact testing' where they are tested daily for 7 days
- If they test negative, they can remain in school/college that day
- If you or they do not wish to take part, they will need to self-isolate

What if my child tests **negative** for COVID-19 on a Lateral Flow Device?

- There will be no need for them to self-isolate and they can remain in school / college as normal
- Social distancing and face coverings where appropriate will remain necessary

What do I need to do if my child tests **positive** for COVID-19 on a Lateral Flow Device?

- They will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the positive result
- Contact the school / college to inform us of the PCR test result which you will receive via text / email
- If the PCR result is positive, your child will need to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days

How does my child testing positive impact the rest of my household?

- Your household will have to self-isolate for 10 days
- Follow the [latest government guidance](#).

When can my child return to school / college after testing positive for COVID-19?

- Your child can stop self-isolating and return to school / college on day 11 **after the positive PCR test** if they've not had a high temperature for 48 hours and are well
- They can return then even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell as these symptoms can last for several weeks

# COVID-related pupil/student absence – Printable Guidance for Parents and Pupils/Students (2/2)

The guidance below addresses what a positive or negative test result means for your child and your household, and the support available to you.

What does a positive result mean for my child's education?

We have a strong commitment to ensuring all pupils/students can access a wide range of learning resources remotely and will continue to support their education whilst they are self-isolating.

Additional information can be found  
<https://bit.ly/covidhomelearning>

**IMPORTANT:** If, at any point, a student/pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must [follow government guidelines](#), [order a PCR test](#) and self-isolate.



Addressing your concerns

For more information you can visit:  
<https://bit.ly/covidhomelearning>  
If you're worried about your child medically, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/> or call 111.

