



16th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Home Covid-19 testing for students at JRCS

As you will obviously be aware, when the students returned to school from Monday 8th March onwards, we began our in-school lateral flow testing programme. Over the past week, this has meant that we have carried out approximately 3,000 tests for students in Years 7-13. This whole process has run extremely smoothly and I want to thank you for your support in helping by using the consent portal on the website.

Once each year group has tested three times in school, they will move on to using home testing kits twice weekly. The purpose of this letter is to give you details as to how this system will operate.

Please note that should your son or daughter have tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days, they do not need to re-test until this period of time has elapsed. We will, however, send home testing kits home with all students.

The reason you are receiving this letter is because your son or daughter's year group has now completed the three in-school tests. Students are bringing home with them two home testing kits. Each kit contains three individual tests and these six tests are enough to ensure your son or daughter is able to test twice weekly up until the Easter holiday. Your son or daughter should also continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays. We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends. Accompanying the home testing kits is a booklet entitled "Your step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing" which gives you all the details you need to support your son or daughter in carrying out the testing process.

Students should test every Sunday and Thursday evening and report their result straightaway via the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>, even if the result is negative or void. Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. You only need to inform the school if your son or daughter records a positive result and this should be done by emailing us at covid@jorichardson.org.uk. In addition, following a positive lateral flow test result, your son or daughter will need to take a PCR test at any local testing centre to confirm their result.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms, you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

Stay safe.

Yours faithfully



G Smith
Headteacher