Dear Parent/Carer.

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 Witchford by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

The Government continue to encourage members of the school community to test at home regularly to continue to make college as safe as possible for everyone.

**Testing students at home**

Please note that home testing is voluntary and the taking of the test itself is giving consent.

Home test kits will be distributed on **Thursday 9th September.**

We would like them to take their tests on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.

You will also need to communicate the result of each test to both [NHS Test & Trace](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) and [school.](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6RhkhoHBGky_bXW7Pm1P5RFRh3rbTC9Coh3TB37rRwZURFNCNUJEWlJRQzJIMTNRNDM0RUNRRjkxTS4u)

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive a two packs of 7 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. These tests are throat and nose test kits.

Make sure you have enough time to do the test and don’t forget you must report the results of every test.

**Taking the test**

Students should take the test twice a week. We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYlVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1).

[Help and support is available](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help), 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](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test%22%20/t%20%22_blank) and follow [national guidelines](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/%22%20/t%20%22_blank).

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help them to take the test if they need support.

Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

**What should you do after the test?**

Anyone with a positive test result will need to:

* self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#exempt)
* [book a further test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result, whether the test was done at home, school or college

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within the 2 days following the positive LFD result, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and your child can return to nursery, childminders, school or college, as long as they don’t have COVID-19 symptoms.

If you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, you will not be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19. Please refer to [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#exempt) for more information.

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

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 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](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/) 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 tell the school the result of each test. This can be done using [this form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6RhkhoHBGky_bXW7Pm1P5RFRh3rbTC9Coh3TB37rRwZURFNCNUJEWlJRQzJIMTNRNDM0RUNRRjkxTS4u).

**Why take part**

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

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.

Witchford Village College