



# PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will commence twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home from this Sunday. This is following their first three supervised tests on site at school.

Up to 1 in 3 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.

We will be sending home the testing kits with Year 8 pupils on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March and for Year 7 pupils on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Pupils will sign for their kits and they are supplied for their use only. Please contact Mrs Longbottom, our Covid Co-ordinator if you encounter any problems with the test kits, e.g. damaged or missing kit, unclear results, multiple void results. Mrs Longbottom can be contacted on 01527 873660 or via [office@parkside.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@parkside.worcs.sch.uk).

Please assist your child to test themselves **twice a week on Sunday and Wednesday evenings**. Tests for pupils aged 11 should be administered by an adult, and pupils aged over 11 should be supervised by an adult but they can swab themselves. Pupils will be bringing home two boxes, each containing 3 tests which will provide enough supplies for three weeks as follows:

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We will be sending home extra kits for the Easter holiday before term ends.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

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.

## Reporting results

It is important that results of tests are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). If your child has a positive test result, you should self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test at a local test centre as soon as possible.

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

As a school we establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are listened to and encouraged to talk.

Please also advise school on Sunday and Wednesday evenings of your child's result (positive, negative, or void) by completing and submitting the Microsoft Form via this link:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6FWKOUUGU3UKZ7I\\_hVSM87-slccRCxV5BtS4-IIo-DP5UN041TEw1RkRLSEtFVIJNNk1JNzZPSTVFTi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6FWKOUUGU3UKZ7I_hVSM87-slccRCxV5BtS4-IIo-DP5UN041TEw1RkRLSEtFVIJNNk1JNzZPSTVFTi4u)

A link to access this Microsoft Form to submit the result to school will also be placed on the school website.

A leaflet with instructions (v1.3.2 and v1.3.3) dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will be provided for assistance with testing (please ignore the outdated instructions within the boxes). Please refer to this booklet for information relating to use, storage, and disposal of the tests.

The following video link provides useful step by step guidance for Covid-19 self-testing.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwh5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

Please find attached a copy of the Privacy Notice for your attention regarding data protection for testing.

#### **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](http://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.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Mills  
Headteacher