



MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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8th March 2021

Dear Families,

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Pupils

The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic Covid-19 testing for secondary school students.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help you to attend school in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools. I am therefore strongly encouraging all students to take the tests.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommend two LFD tests 3 to 4 days apart, or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If you test positive using a LFD, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lab-processed test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

Initial return to testing

Students will be able to take the tests twice every week from Monday 15th March 2021. Students attending school will be conducting these tests at home, twice a week. Test will be distributed to the students from Middlewich High School on Friday 12th March 2021.

When should we test at home?

We are asking families to test students Monday & Thursday morning BEFORE they come to site. Test results take 30minutes so please factor this into your daily routine. **Students should not come to school before they have the result of their test** . If the test result is positive students must not come to school. All test results should be communicated to school we will send out a quick form for you to do this each time. We ask that positive test results are reported to the school immediately. We ask that any negative/void results are reported by 10am at the latest

How the tests work

Students will conduct the test, before coming into school, twice a week on a Monday and Thursday morning. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVq7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

Once the test has been conducted you will log the test result online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and need to also, separately, inform school of the test result (Positive, Negative or Void) via a form that will be sent by email, twice a week on a Monday and Thursday morning. Please see an example of the form you will receive below, please just complete the boxes and click submit when you receive the link.

The image shows a screenshot of a web form titled "COVID Result - Students - Test". The form is designed for reporting test results for students. It includes the following fields and options:

- 1. Please enter your child's full name ***: A text input field with a placeholder "Enter your answer".
- 2. Please enter your child's date of birth ***: A date input field with a placeholder "Please input date in format of dd/MM/yyyy" and a calendar icon.
- 3. Please enter their year group ***: Radio button options for Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, and Year 11.
- 4. Please enter your form (B, K, N, R, S) ***: Radio button options for B, K, N, R, and S.
- 5. Please enter the date your child completed their COVID test ***: A date input field with a placeholder "Please input date in format of dd/MM/yyyy" and a calendar icon.
- 6. Please enter the COVID test result ***: Radio button options for Positive, Negative, and Void.

At the bottom left of the form, there is a purple button labeled "+ Add new".

You will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from NHS Test & Trace. Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the school.

Consent / Privacy

Once families understand the testing process and read the privacy notice, if they choose to participate, they are committing to self-administer the test and provide their results. Results should also be shared with school to support local contact tracing.

Students who decline to participate can still attend school if not symptomatic.

People who decline to participate in this testing programme should follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and anyone should [get tested](#) if they show symptoms.

We will support our students throughout but please let us know if you have any questions by emailing admin@middlewichhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,



Heidi Thurland
Headteacher