



Ref STA/KEB/CMC

17 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Regular asymptomatic (no symptoms) COVID-19 testing has been in place at North Durham Academy since January 2021 and we have now successfully concluded the three tests for all our students upon their return to full time education.

The Government recently announced that all secondary aged students will also be offered regular asymptomatic COVID-19 tests to take at home. All secondary aged students will be offered tests to take at home twice a week, so that we can reduce the spread of the virus.

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 North Durham Academy by carrying out tests at home twice a week, three to five days apart.

All our students have been given instructions on how to conduct the test and report the results. For further information please visit our website at:

<https://www.northdurhamacademy.co.uk/academy-life/covid-19-updates-and-home-learning-support>

Testing students at home - The academy will provide students with home test kits from Thursday 18th March.

Tests are free of charge. Students will initially receive a pack of three tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results to NHS Test & Trace.

We would like them to take their tests on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Therefore, their first home test will be on Sunday 21st March and then on Wednesday 24th March.

We will provide students with additional home test kits before the Easter Holidays. Testing should continue during the holidays.

You will also need to inform us of the result of each test using the online form found on our website or using the link sent via text message.

Taking the test - Students should take the test, before coming into North Durham Academy, 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](#).

[Help and support is available](#), 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 and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test? 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> and the [academy](#).

A link to this form is also available via <https://www.northdurhamacademy.co.uk/academy-life/covid-19-updates-and-home-learning-support>

If anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at North Durham Academy).

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

Negative and void results should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and the academy.

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 wearing a face mask and 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 on self-isolation and testing](#).

Why take part - Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend North Durham Academy whether they take part in testing or not.


I am strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend North Durham Academy as safely as possible.

Please contact the academy on 01207 292180 or email via info@ndacademy.co.uk.

If you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



A Sweeten
Principal