



Dear Parent / Carer

Students will shortly be moving to twice weekly rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their first three supervised tests on site at the Academy.

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

[The Government has recently announced that](#) all secondary and college aged students will be offered tests to make the return to school safer for everyone.

### **Testing students at home**

Students will be able to collect three home testing kits from their form tutor on the morning of Friday 19 March. Each kit contains three tests. Students are expected to keep testing throughout the Easter holiday, so they will have enough tests for four full weeks. Further testing kits will be issued next half term if required.

Government guidance suggests students take their tests on a Sunday evening and before school on a Wednesday of each week. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken in the evening if needed. You need to report test results.

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive a testing kit along with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results via the [GOV.uk website](#).

You will also need to tell the Academy the result of each test using this [Microsoft Form](#). **Positive** tests must also be reported to the Academy directly via a phone call to reception.

Students who are currently self-isolating and therefore, not in the building, are able to nominate a family member to collect their home test kits from Friday 19 March from the Academy reception. The main office closes at 3.30pm and kits will only be available to collect between Monday-Friday, 8-3.30pm.

### **Taking the test**

Students should take the test before coming into school, twice a week. Full instructions are included with the test 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?**

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. We will also ask for evidence of a positive test e.g. photo of test strip, so that we can effectively adhere to our own internal test and trace procedures.

You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and Stanground Academy.

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 Stanground 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 Stanground 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](#).

### **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 by completing the Microsoft Form detailed above.

### **Why take part**

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

Please contact Mr Ian Craig ([icraig@stangroundacademy.org](mailto:icraig@stangroundacademy.org)), our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

If you would like more information or access to our FAQ, please follow this [link](#) to our website.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully



**Gary Carlile**  
**Principal**