



# THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher  
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Wednesday 31 March 2021

## End of Term/Home Testing

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Easter holidays, we would like to update you on the progress of our mass asymptomatic testing programme and our next steps in ensuring we are doing everything we can to keep students in school safely and minimise the spread of the virus.

Firstly, we must say thank you for your support in the full reopening of school, it has been such a pleasure to welcome all students back to school and we really must commend them for their calmness and mature conduct. Students are engaging well with their learning and following all the safety measures that are still in place. The mass testing programme was something of a planning challenge, but our testing team have been efficient and professional, and the students have been respectful and sensible during the process. We carried out almost 5000 tests with no positive cases.

It is important to understand that 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, home testing is intended to identify asymptomatic cases. Students took their first 3 tests in school under the supervision of a trained member of staff before moving to regular home testing. Home testing does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

### **Home testing**

Students who have given consent were given home test kits after their third in school test. The guidance asks that students test twice a week. Students have now been provided with enough tests to last them through the Easter holiday and to the end of the first week of the summer term. Each box contains 3 tests and a leaflet on how to take the test and report the result.

### **A guide for healthcare staff self-testing for coronavirus using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD):**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/12/NHS-Test-and-Trace-HEE-PC-staff-testing-LFD.pdf>

Testing should continue through the Easter break and students have enough tests for the week after the holiday. Students should not eat or drink 30 minutes prior to taking the test. There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported and this can be disposed of in household waste.

On the day of the test, all test results need to be reported to the NHS Test and Trace website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. If the test result is positive, please inform the school by emailing [rnicolle@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:rnicolle@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk)

If the result is positive, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked and whilst awaiting the PCR result, your child and your household/support bubble should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, this



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overrides the home test result and there is no need to self-isolate. If positive, your child, your household and support bubble should continue to self-isolate in line with the NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

If your child did not receive their home test kits due to absence from school you can collect the test kits from Reception in normal school hours.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Ecclesbourne community a happy and healthy Easter Holiday and we hope you are able to enjoy some spring sunshine and the gradual easing of national restrictions over the coming weeks. Thank you for your help and support which makes it possible for us, working together, to do our very best for all our students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email. As always, please do get in touch with us here at school if you need any further information or support.

Best wishes and stay safe,




James McNamara

Head Teacher

The Ecclesbourne School





# COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence:

## A quick guide for parents/carers

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school/early years setting ...
 <p>...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>• Child should have a PCR test **</li> <li>• Whole household (and support /childcare bubble) self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school/early years setting immediately of test result</li> </ul>	<p>...when child's PCR test comes back negative and free from fever for 48 hours</p> <p>A negative PCR result means the test did not find coronavirus at the time of the test. They can return to school/early years setting when feeling well enough. Coughs and loss of smell/ taste may last several weeks if the child had another virus such as a cold or flu.</p>
 <p>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) on a Lateral Flow Test (LFD Test)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>• Child should get a confirmatory PCR test if LFD Test was completed at home</li> <li>• Child and whole household self-isolates (including support/childcare bubble) for at least 10 days as advised</li> <li>• Inform school/early years setting immediately of result</li> </ul>	<p>... when the isolation period has been completed and the child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours. They can return to school/early years setting after 10 days</p> <p><b>OR</b> if the confirmatory PCR test is negative</p>
<p>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) on a PCR test</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>• Child self-isolates for at least 10 days as advised</li> <li>• Inform school/early years setting immediately of result</li> <li>• Whole household (and support/childcare bubble) self-isolates for 10 days as advised</li> </ul>	<p>..when the isolation period has been completed and the child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours. They can return to school/early years setting after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste</p>
 <p>...somebody in my household or support/childcare bubble has COVID-19 symptoms*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>• Household(or support/childcare bubble)member with symptoms should get a PCR test **</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	<p>...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*</p>

\* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.  
For further details visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

\*\* Visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school/early years setting ...
 <p>...somebody in my household or support /childcare bubble has tested positive for COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>•Whole household(and support/childcare bubble)are close contacts and will self-isolate for 10 days as advised - even if you or someone else tests negative during those 10 days</li> </ul>	<p>...when child has completed 10 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 10 days</p>
 <p>... my child has been identified as a 'close contact' of a confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Child should not attend school/early years setting</li> <li>•Child should self-isolate for 10 days as advised – even if they test negative during those 10 days</li> <li>•Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they have also been identified as a 'close contact' of someone with a positive result or they develop symptoms</li> </ul>	<p>...when the child has completed their period of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 10 days</p>
 <p>...we have received advice from my child's GP or the NHS that my child must resume shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting</li> <li>•Contact school/early years setting as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team</li> <li>•Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	<p>..if you receive advice from your child's GP or the NHS that your child no longer needs to shield and can return to school/ early years setting Or, when you are informed that shielding is paused</p>
 <p>....I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with symptoms* need to book a PCR test through NHS Test &amp; Trace. Call 119 or visit <a href="https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test">https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</a></li> <li>•People without symptoms* can get a rapid (lateral flow) test as part of a testing scheme for people without symptoms (e.g. at a community test site, or through school/workplace testing schemes, etc).</li> </ul>	

For further information: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus) (Adapted from a document produced by Greater Manchester. Updated 24.03.21)