CORBY
Technical
School

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Principal: Angela Reynolds

25th March 2021

Dear Parent/carer,

Introduction of home testing for COVID-19

After a very successful start to the rapid testing programme in school, we are now preparing to continue the testing programme from home.

It is believed, 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 schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Testing students at home

This week after the 3rd round of testing in school, each student will be provided with a home testing kit.

Ideally, we would like them to take their tests before school on Monday and Thursday of each week. However, as long as the tests are take 3-5 days apart it is not essential to stick to these days. Tests are free of charge and students will receive 2 packs which each contain 3 test and a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. These will enable you to test for 3 weeks (taking 2 tests a week) and further test kits will be issued to students w/b 12th April 2021.

Make sure you have enough time to do the test. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before if needed. You need to report test results to both the school and NHS test and trace. Further details on how to do this are in the section recording the results.

Taking the test

Students should take the test, before coming into school, twice a week. There is 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).

Recording the results

You should record the results of your test after 30 minutes. Go to https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result and follow the easy process for recording your result.

We would also like you to contact the school with your test result. To make this process easy to manage, the school has signed up to an app called **TestRegister.co.uk.** Each week the test register will send a reminder email for taking the test. Parents should open the email and follow the link to record the results. If you do not wish to participate in the home testing or you do not want to share the results with the school you can log in using the first email and remove your consent.

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 stay at home 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 school).

You need to report your result to both NHS Track and Trace using this link https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result and the school using this link TestRegister.co.uk.

Negative and void results

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

These should also be reported using Track and Trace https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result and to the school. 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 https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

You will also need to tell the school the result of each test using the TestRegister.co.uk link sent in the reminder email.

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. We would strongly encourage all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

There is an FAQ section attached with this letter. However, if you have any further queries please contact enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Sarah Young
School Business Manager