



The Government of Sark

## **PANDEMIC EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

**A COMMITTEE OF THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK**

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### **TESTING PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS**

As students and staff prepare to return to education settings at the start of September, a widespread testing programme for COVID-19 is being put in place, across the Bailiwick, for teachers and students.

The phased changes to border restrictions have increased the number of people travelling into and out of the Bailiwick over the summer. As a community we do need to accept that we will see cases of COVID-19 and we may see cases cropping up in schools and education settings. That being said, before everyone returns to education settings next month, we have an opportunity to do widespread COVID-19 testing of all students and teachers with the aim of reducing the risk of infection. This is part of the surveillance programme which is being supported by Education with clinical direction and oversight from Public Health in Guernsey.

In order to carry out this testing, arrangements have been put in place starting this week, as follows:

**Early Years settings** - any child who attends a pre-school, childminder or nursery will be asked to have a lower nasal PCR test in late August/ early September.

Children are asked to participate in this testing programme irrespective of whether they have been attending any Early Years setting during the summer break and/or have had a PCR test during that time as they have returned from travelling outside of the Bailiwick.

Early Years providers and parents will need to liaise with Sark Medical Practice to book their PCR tests.

### **Key Stage 1 and 2** -Primary/Junior school-aged children

In the week before primary children return to school, they will be asked to carry out two parentally supported and observed lateral flow tests. These should be spread out over the week i.e. not done on consecutive days.

### **Key Stage 3 and 4 and Post - 16 education** -Secondary school aged children and young people and anyone attending post 16 education (full and part-time).

In the week before students return to school/college, they will be asked to carry out two lateral flow tests. These should be spread out over the week i.e. not done on consecutive days. Parents/carers are encouraged to support children and young people with their lateral flow tests.

Once they have done 2 tests prior to returning to school/college, students will be asked to continue doing twice-weekly lateral flow tests as part of our ongoing surveillance testing.

### **Teachers and Support Staff**

In the week before teachers and support staff return to school/college, they will be asked to carry out two lateral flow tests. These should be spread out over the week i.e. not done on consecutive days.

Once they have done 2 tests prior to returning to school/college, they will be asked to continue doing 2 lateral flow tests per week as part of our ongoing surveillance testing. Full details of the testing requirements are on Guernsey's COVID-19 website here: <https://covid19.gov.gg/guidance/education>

Packs of lateral flow tests will be available for collection from the Medical Centre.

Those asked to undertake two lateral flow tests in the week before attending an education setting should ensure that one of those tests is done no earlier than the day before their return. Anybody whose test shows a positive result should contact the Medical Centre on 832045.

This testing opportunity is **voluntary** for those children/staff who have not travelled outside the Bailiwick within 14 days of their return to an education setting, however it is **strongly recommended**.

Any young person/teacher/member of support staff who has travelled outside of the Bailiwick in the previous 14 days **must** have a Covid-19 (PCR) test to confirm a negative result within the 48 hours before they return to an education setting, even if they have travelled through the "blue channel". **Please contact the surgery to book this.**