

RC/JAE

24 March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your ongoing support in preparing your child for school. The significant majority of students have now returned to the classroom. A small group remain at home for a variety of reasons and we wish them well with their continued studies from home.

With the completion of three testing cycles in school for nearly 90% of the student population, we now move to the next phase of the testing roll out. Your child will be bringing home a 'COVID-19 Self-Test Kit'. The kit contains three tests. Each student will be given two kits, enough for three weeks – testing on a Sunday and Wednesday, if possible. There is a full instruction booklet with each box and most students have completed a number of tests already. More kits will be available from Student Reception. A pack of disposable masks is also being sent home with each student. The school has been given 40,000 masks. Therefore, no student should be without one or need to buy one.

I have enclosed the 'Parent Guide to COVID-19' for checking if in any doubt. The requirement to self-isolate has not changed. For example, if your child shows any symptoms of COVID-19, they must isolate or, if any member of the child's household is being tested or awaiting a COVID-19 test result, the household should isolate until the test result is confirmed as negative. If positive, a period of self-isolation is required.

If the 'Self-Test Kit' shows a 'positive' result, a second 'PCR' test is required to confirm the 'positive' or override the previous test if found to be 'negative'. PCR test information is available on-line from: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. Parents and wider family members can also use this site to order their own testing kits.

Thankfully, the infection rate is clearly going down in our area but we still need to support the use of wider protective measures, such as mask wearing and hand sanitising for the foreseeable future.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

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Frequently Asked Questions about Lateral Flow Tests

Q: When do students need to complete the self-tests?

Students need to complete the tests twice weekly (3 or 4 days apart). For example each Monday and Thursday evening.

Q. Are the tests mandatory or voluntary?

Tests are voluntary, but we encourage all students to be involved in the testing to protect our community.

Q: What if we forget to test?

You should complete your tests as soon as possible, you can continue coming to school as normal. It is always useful to set a reminder on your devices and set the same time aside each week to complete these tests.

Q. What happens if my test is negative, but I have coronavirus symptoms?

If you have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, you and your household must isolate immediately and arrange for a PCR Test. Please also inform the school.

Q: What should I do if I receive a positive test?

If you receive a positive result, you and your household should isolate immediately. You need to inform school as soon as possible, a confirmatory PCR test will need to be arranged.

Q: If I develop COVID-19 symptoms, should I take the test earlier?

No, these tests are asymptomatic (designed for people without symptoms) if you do have symptoms you should stay home, you and your family should isolate and get a PCR test.

Q: Does the test mean we no longer need to physically distance ourselves?

No, the test is one method of detecting those who do not have symptoms, it does not replace the need to follow physical distancing, practice good hygiene, and wear face coverings.

Q: Can students complete the tests themselves?

All students under the age of 18 should have adult supervision to complete the test. The government guidance states that all students under 18 should self-test with an adult supervising the test. This does not mean you administer the test, the students do know how to do this. Students should complete the swabs themselves, however, if your child is below 13 years old you may wish to support them in this.

Q: If my child has tested positive for COVID last year should they complete the test?

No. If students have personally tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days they should NOT complete the tests.

Q: I did not consent to testing at school and I do not wish for my child to complete the testing.

We are providing every student with a box and the decision to complete/consent is yours, and your child's alone. We would encourage every student to complete the test. By completing the test at home this is automatic consent, so you do not need to sign anything further. If you do not wish your child to participate, you will not test at home.

Q: Can anyone in my household take one of these tests?

No, unfortunately. These tests are for your child only for completing twice-weekly tests. Parent can order tests on-line at www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Q: Do I need to wear medical gloves to complete the tests?

No, students are only testing themselves with their own sample, so do not need to wear gloves/PPE.

Q: How long does it take to read a test result?

Adults must check after 30 minutes - if you wait beyond 30 minutes, it can mean the test is invalid.



Portchester Community School
Covid-19 related student absence
A quick reference guide for parents

What to do if	Action Needed	Return to school when
<p>My child has Covid-19 symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIGH TEMPERATURE – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. • A NEW <u>CONTINUOUS COUGH</u> – this means coughing a lot more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. • A LOSS OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything. 	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Contact school to inform us. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Get a test. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULT.</p>	<p>The test comes back negative.</p>
<p>My child tests positive for Covid-19 on a Covid-19 self-test.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. A second test (a PCR test) is required. If the PCR test is negative, return to school. If the PCR test is positive, you must self-isolate (see below). Contact school to inform us. Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 10 days). Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Remote learning. Risk assessment completed with Public Health England (PHE).</p>	<p>They feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.</p>
<p>My child tests negative.</p>	<p>CONTACT THE SCHOOL. Discuss when your child can come back to school (same day/next day).</p>	<p>The test comes back negative.</p>
<p>My child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.</p>	<p>FOLLOW USUAL SCHOOL ABSENCE POLICY PROCEDURE.</p>	<p>After 48 hours, following the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea, if this is the cause of absence.</p>
<p>Someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Contact school. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Household members to get tested. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTS.</p>	<p>The test comes back negative.</p>
<p>Someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Contact school. Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).</p>	<p>The child has completed 14 days of isolation.</p>
<p>HNS Test and Trace has named my child has been in close contact of someone with symptoms of confirmed Covid-19.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. CONTACT SCHOOL. Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).</p>	<p>The child has completed 14 days of isolation.</p>
<p>We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as a period of quarantine.</p>	<p>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time. Consider quarantine requirements and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice when booking travel. When returning from a destination where quarantine is needed – please check (dates have changed for individual countries/places – some have 14 days from return date). Agree an earliest date for possible return with the school. Self-isolate the whole household.</p>	<p>The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.</p>
<p>We have received medical advice that my child must not attend school.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. CONTACT SCHOOL. Remote learning.</p>	<p>Once medical advice states that it is safe to return to school. Please inform the school of any changes to advice received.</p>
<p>My child's class/group is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Remote learning. Your child will need to isolate for 14 days.</p>	<p>School will inform you when the class/group will be reopened.</p>

This may not answer all questions or all scenarios but I hope it makes a very challenging situation a little clearer.



Key Dates

March – July 2021

March 2021	Friday 26 March – INSET Day (cancelled)
April 2021	Friday 2 April – Friday 16 April inclusive - Easter Holiday Wednesday 28 April – PTA Meeting via TEAMS (6.30 pm – 7.30 pm)
May 2021	Wednesday 5 May – Year 11 Parents' Evening Wednesday 26 May – Year 10 Parents' Evening
June 2021	Friday 11 June – Deadline for Year 11 Grades Wednesday 23 June – Year 6 into Year 7 Informal Induction Evening
July 2021	Monday 5-Friday 9 July: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Assessment week Year 5 and Year 6 Induction week Wednesday 7 July – Year 6 into Year 7 Induction Evening Monday 12 July – 'Talk like an expert day'

KS3 Parents' Evening dates to be agreed later in the term.

Portchester Community School PTA

V O L U N T E E R

WHAT'S MISSING?

U R

PLEASE JOIN US



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Parentkind
Member Association

If you would like to join the PTA or volunteer to support us in our fundraising-
The next meeting is on Wednesday 28th April
via Teams at 6:30pm
Please contact the school office on
023 9236 4399