



# Rawmarsh Community School



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January 2021

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and [students/Pupils]**

Dear Parent

We hope that you had a relaxed and enjoyable Christmas holiday. It went quickly, and now we are back to the business of making sure that your son/daughter has a productive, successful and secure 2021.

On this note we are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff and students who want to participate from week commencing 4 January 2021.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the online consent statement (one per student) which can be found via the following web address <https://forms.gle/HZzP6zRkza7i7fGB9>

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. The trained staff are able to administer the test for any student that would prefer this.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where a student receives a positive result we will inform parents and carers straight away and ask you to collect your son/daughter from school.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently. A positive test result would then need to be confirmed by a PCR test at a local testing centre.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

I have enclosed a guide for parents from the NHS – please take time to read this and do not hesitate to get in touch with me should you require any further clarification.

Your continued support is much appreciated and the combination: home, school and student here at Rawmarsh Community School will continue to prove to be unbeatable, even in these challenging times.

Happy New Year to you and your family.

Kind regards

Matthew Turton  
Headteacher

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"We want to send every young person into the world able and qualified to play their part in it".



## FAQs

### What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). [School / college] will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in [school/college] and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to [school/college] if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of Rawmarsh Community School who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

### What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at [school/college] is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01709 710672 or email [rcsmail@rawmarsh.org](mailto:rcsmail@rawmarsh.org)