



15 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware, students are to be tested for COVID-19 three times in school after which they will move to home testing.

The home testing process is exactly the same as that used in College, so your child will be familiar with it. Full, very clear instructions are given along with the test kits. There is also a step-by-step YouTube video if you would like more information [here](#) and some [frequently asked questions](#) as provided to schools by the government.

Your child will be given two boxes containing six kits in total and an instruction booklet. Please note that these kits should only be used by the student, not other members of the family, and provide enough supplies to test twice a week (Monday and Thursday morning) for 3 weeks. Further supplies will be distributed at that point. It is recommended that students take their test on a morning before coming into College. However, you may choose to do the testing the evening before, especially the first time to get accustomed to the test. Please be aware that it takes 30 minutes for the results to appear, so please allow enough time to do the test and observe the results.

Please note the following:

- Students aged 11 should have the test administered by an adult, whereas those aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves, and those aged 18+ can self-test without any help.
- Please read the [privacy notice](#) to understand what will happen with your data.
- By taking the test, you are agreeing to report the test result via the NHS Test and Trace digital platform, whether positive, negative or void. You must report the test result [here](#) or by phone on **119** each time and within 24 hours of taking the test.
- Emmanuel College is not able to view these results, so please inform College immediately of either a positive or invalid (void) result by phoning 0191 4602099. All negative results should also be reported to College using [this form](#).
- NHS Test and Trace announced last week that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. More information about how you can access these tests can be found [here](#).
- There is help and support on the government website [here](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

What if my child tests positive?

If your child's test is positive you must report it via NHS Test and Trace, and you will need to arrange for them to take a further 'PCR test' at an NHS testing centre to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. While waiting for the PCR result the student will need to self-isolate and you should inform College immediately.

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

If the PCR test returns a negative result, please inform College and your child will be able to return to lessons.

Should my child take the test if they have had COVID-19?

It is recommended that anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should allow 90 days to pass before taking one of these tests.

Please remember that these lateral flow tests are for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including 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 PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Waterfield
Principal