



TANFIELD  
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

## Easter update

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well.

As we are about to break up for Easter, I wanted to say a big thank you for supporting us in getting your child back to school safely over the last 3 weeks. I'm pleased to inform you that we have still had no positive tests. I believe that this has been down to the way that all members of TeamTanfield have pulled together to keep each other safe. In particular, the way that you have ensured that your child has carried out the twice weekly tests at home.

Following the success of this asymptomatic testing programme, the government believes that it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Therefore, we are continuing to ask for your support in testing your child over the coming weeks. We would like you to:

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to) using the testing kits we have distributed
- report results online as positive, negative or void. If possible, we would like this to be on the Classcharts app (the explanation why is below)
- **continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays**
- test on the night before returning to school for the summer term, to find and isolate any positive cases

## Testing students at home

We are suggesting that all staff and students continue to **take their tests on a Sunday and Wednesday evening** over the Easter holidays.

Students will receive a pack of 7 tests before they leave school today. These are the same as the tests they got previously. The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Students/parents will also need to tell the school the result of each test using the Classcharts app. An explanation of how to do this can be found on our website: <https://www.tanfieldschool.co.uk/news/show/77>

We realise that asking for results to be recorded on Classcharts is a change from the original plan. This is because it is a new feature in the Classcharts app that was introduced this week. For those parents who don't use the app, it is the programme that we use in school to record all of our behaviour data. We also use it to allow us to create seating plans. When we have a positive case, we use this app to identify who the close contacts have been. By recording our test results on the app, it will allow us to easily identify the close contacts, if we are unlucky enough to have a positive case.

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For those parents who haven't currently got the app, it is a fantastic way to keep informed about how your child is doing in school. You receive real time updates when teachers record positives, negatives or STAR student awards.

If a student has a positive test result, they will need to stay home and self- isolate. If the result of the test is unclear (void) they will need to do another one.

Please use the [help@tanfieldschool.co.uk](mailto:help@tanfieldschool.co.uk) email address if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

### **New reward**

Finally, I wanted to make you aware of a new reward we have introduced in school. We wanted to reward the student who gets the most positives in a week. However, we also wanted to reward parents because it is your support which has enabled your child to do so well. Therefore, we want to give you a night off cooking by buying your family a pizza meal, on the night of your choice, as a small way to say thank you.

I hope you and your family have a safe and happy Easter.


Take care,





Mr S Clough  
Headteacher

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## Some frequently asked questions

### What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

### Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

### How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus: polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus - LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

### How will personal information and test results be shared?

When students take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the student. They will need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- child's name
- child's test result
- the reference number on the test kit

They will also need to tell the school or college their test result. Under UK law, a child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again.

When someone reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC. DHSC may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person's name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice <https://www.tanfieldschool.co.uk/gdpr/show/11>.

**What if a child cannot tolerate a swab down their throat, perhaps due to their disability?**

A child or young person may find it difficult to take a throat swab due, for example, to them having difficulty in understanding instructions, needing to keep their mouth open during the period of swabbing or they are having a strong gag reflex. In such cases, where a combined nose and throat swab is not possible, a nose swab from both nostrils can be taken. Similarly, if a nasal swab is not feasible, a throat swab alone will suffice.



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