



Amber Valley
& Erewash
Support Centres

Tom England
Headteacher

Amber Valley & Erewash Support Centre
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Date: 4 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Pupils

The Government is advising that all secondary age pupils should be invited to take part in lateral flow testing for COVID-19 after returning to school on Monday 8 March. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By encouraging testing, we will help to reduce the spread in our schools and in the wider community through asymptomatic transmission.

To this end we will be offering the opportunity for secondary age pupils to participate in twice-weekly home testing. You will be provided with home test kits and detailed instruction booklets, which can be used by your child to self-administer the test, with your supervision, or can be used by you to administer to your child. The test will need to be done twice a week, 3 or 4 days apart. We recommend completing the test on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone, as set out in the home test kit instructions. If a test is positive, or your child gets coronavirus symptoms, you must tell the school and:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result by calling 119
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

A negative result will mean the test did not find signs of coronavirus but this will not guarantee that your child does not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommended

Testing is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak.

Pupils who choose not to test will still be able to attend school every day, as long as they are not displaying symptoms of coronavirus.

Unfortunately, the logistical challenges of setting up testing for pupils in our school mean that we will not be able to test pupils on-site. This is mainly due to the difficulties of finding an available safe space to set up a test centre, and having enough staff resources to support testing, when all our pupils are returning to learning in the classroom. We believe that our staff time needs to be prioritised to welcome pupils back into school and ensure their health and well-being can be supported appropriately as they settle back into their educational and therapeutic routines.

We should receive the home test kits shortly after 8th March. You will be contacted by a member of staff to discuss the option of having a test kit for your child. This conversation will be recorded as your consent for either choosing to participate in the testing programme or unwilling to participate in the government testing scheme and how you want to receive the tests. Alternatively, you can complete the consent form on the page below and have your child bring in the response or email your response to kpilkinton@avesc.derbyshire.sch.uk. If you want any further information about testing, please contact the school.

Yours faithfully

Tom England
Headteacher

COVID-19 Home Testing for Pupils – CONSENT

Please complete and return this consent form if you wish to have access to home test kits, which are completed twice weekly by pupils.

Pupil Name: _____ Year: _____

I consent to home testing and wish to receive home testing kits.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please indicate how you wish to receive the test kits (tick one only):

Sent home with my child

Parental collection from school

APT Students: keyworker to drop off test kits to home address