

18 June 2021

Department of Health and Social Care HQ  
Crookall House, Demesne Road  
Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3QA

Telephone: (01624) 685816  
E-mail: [dhsc@gov.im](mailto:dhsc@gov.im)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of the Isle of Man's Exit Framework and long-term approach to living in a world with COVID-19, the Department of Health and Social Care, Manx Care and Department of Education, Sport & Culture are working to offer voluntary screening for COVID-19 for pupils attending secondary school on the Island.

This is a voluntary trial for COVID-19 screening (referred to as a lateral flow test). The self-test kit is free of charge and will be made available in your child's school until the end of the summer term (23 July 2021).

Kits must be collected by parents and each school will inform you of the collection time available.

Manx Care will ensure home testing kits are available in all secondary schools for collection and subsequent testing at home, restricted to two tests for each pupil per week. You are encouraged to support your child to complete the test as part of the Island's increase in screening for COVID-19.

Upon completion of the test, the only action you need to take is to contact 111 if the test outcome is a "positive COVID-19" result. Home test kits do not replace symptomatic testing (accessible only by contacting 111).

### **How do the tests work?**

The tests will work alongside any other protective measures in place at schools, which includes promotion of respiratory hygiene, hand washing etc. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By screening, we hope that we will contribute to the Island's measures to mitigate any possible spread of the virus and help to keep our community as safe as possible. Although, the test is voluntary, please do encourage your child to participate.

A video to explain how to use the test will be available on your schools' website by the end of this week. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, taken by your child at home, using a self-administered swab of the nose and throat. Results take around 15-30 minutes from testing. There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test, you can discard the test by putting it in your normal household waste bin.

## **When will the tests take place?**

Should you wish your child to take part in the screening the lateral flow test kits will be available to collect by your child from the school, restricted to two tests per week from Monday 21 June 2021.

## **What if my child tests positive?**

To help limit the spread of infection, any child who tests positive should isolate at home immediately, with their household and you should contact 111 by phone for advice.

The child will then be required to undertake a 'PCR swab test' as soon as possible, which can be arranged by 111. During this time while they wait for the PCR result your child and the entire household will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a **negative result** – no further action is required, and your child and household are no longer required to isolate once confirmed by 111.

If the PCR test returns a **positive result** all household members may then be asked to complete a PCR test by 111 and continue to isolate and follow the guidance from 111.

## **What if my child develops symptoms?**

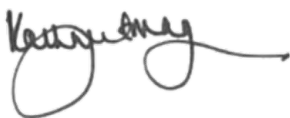
This testing programme at school is for pupils with no symptoms.

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 111.

We very much value your ongoing support to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in the Island's community.

Thank you in advance for discussing this important topic with your child, and for understanding the need for us to make these plans for testing in our schools.

Yours faithfully,



**Kathryn Magson**  
**Interim Chief Executive Officer**  
**Department of Health and Social Care**