



Emerson Park Academy

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

ENDEAVOUR
PERSEVERE
ACHIEVE

Ref: MH/JS
Date: 26th March 2021

Wych Elm Road
Hornchurch
Essex RM11 3AD

Tel: 01708 475285
Fax: 01708 620963

www.emersonparkacademy.org

Head Teacher: Mr S McGuinness

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please see below the latest government guidance issued by the DfE to all secondary schools and colleges in England regarding asymptomatic testing for COVID-19.

Please pass on this message to all of your staff, students and parents:

Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays for schools and colleges

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term.

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results online as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases.

Our next steps at Emerson Park Academy

Therefore, from Monday the 29th March 2021 we will be issuing students with additional home test kits. These additional home testing kits will in theory enable all our students to be test at home until the end of April.

With one in three people having COVID-19 without knowing it is important that we all continue our collective effort to try and stop the spread. Therefore, along with all other schools and colleges in England; we are asking our students to test themselves at home twice weekly, 3 - 4 days apart.

Home tests kits are free of charge and our students will receive a pack of tests in a box with a separate leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

Taking the test

Help and support is available, including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal, household waste bin.



This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You need to report your result to NHS Test and Trace.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at School/college).

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

Negative and void results should also be reported to both NHS Test & Trace.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow national guidelines on self-isolation and testing.

You need to report each test result

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

You will only need to tell the school if the result is '**Positive**' or '**Void**', please do this by contacting the school on 01708 475285.

Why take part

Taking part in testing continues to be voluntary and all students will be able to attend Emerson Park Academy after the Easter break whether they take part in home testing or not. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Mr Mark Hope
Assistant Head Teacher