



COVID-19 UPDATE 5

16th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Department for Education announced yesterday (15th December - [read the DfE press release in full](#)) that lateral flow tests will be deployed to all secondary schools and colleges to help detect asymptomatic cases and break chains of transmission from January.

In the press release issued yesterday afternoon it states that every secondary school and college in England, as well as special schools and alternative provision, will have access to rapid coronavirus testing from January to help keep staff and students as safe as possible and in education.

Students will be eligible for daily testing for seven days if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive. Under current guidelines, up to a whole school bubble has had to self-isolate if one student or staff member tests positive. From January, those in the same bubble will not need to self-isolate if they agree to be tested once a day. This will improve attendance and ensure young people can benefit from face-to-face teaching as much as possible.

Staff will also be eligible for daily testing if they are identified as a close contact. Asymptomatic testing helps to identify positive cases more quickly, and break chains of transmission.

We understand that primary schools will then be supported to roll out testing as quickly as possible over the spring term.

We have been informed that the DfE will provide schools with the necessary equipment and materials to deliver the testing.

We will update you further in the New Year when we have more information.

Thank you again for all your continued support. With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Stay safe,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Evans'.

Dr A Evans
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