



# All Saints Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mr A. McGuinness

## Update on COVID-19 testing; transition to home-based testing

17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to all parents and pupils for your support in the first stage of our school based mass testing programme. Your flexibility and support have ensured a very smooth operation. Particular thanks to all 853 parents and carers who granted consent and whose children have engaged so well with the testing programme here at All Saints. Test operatives have all passed comment on the politeness of your children and have commented how pleasant they are to work with. To date we have had 0 positive cases identified so our collective efforts are working well.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 are asymptomatic and can spread the virus without knowing it. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the spread of the virus and therefore keep you, your family and your friends safer. As part of the road map out of lockdown announced by the government on 22nd February students will be moving to twice weekly rapid covid-19 testing at home.

Home based testing should commence during w/c 22/03/2021. Tests should happen 3 - 5 days apart (eg. Monday & Thursday) and should be done in the morning before school. If this is not possible, do the test the night before, just before bedtime.

We will be sending home Covid testing kits with your child on the following days:

- Year 7 – Friday 19th March
- Year 8 – Friday 19th March
- Year 9 – Friday 19th March
- Year 10 – Thursday 18th March
- Year 11 – Thursday 18th March
- VI Form – Thursday 18th March

Your child should continue to self-test at home during the Easter break. A further set of test kits will be sent home during the w/c 22/03/2021. The days for each year group will be confirmed via text message on Monday 22nd March.

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

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 should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at an

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Asymptomatic Test Site eg at School). If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to us at school by sharing with us the following information: Child's Name, Form class, DOB & result. This should be sent to the following e-mail address: [covidtestresults@allsaintschs.org.uk](mailto:covidtestresults@allsaintschs.org.uk)

**Negative and void results** should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and us at school via the email address: [covidtestresults@allsaintschs.org.uk](mailto:covidtestresults@allsaintschs.org.uk)

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](#).

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread. Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests)
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit:

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests](#)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T McGuinness  
Headteacher

*B Bradley*  
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Assistant Headteacher

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