

December 31st 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

You will have seen media reports about the recent government announcement regarding a staggered start to term in January, and rapid testing in schools. Whilst we anticipate further information from the DfE will be forthcoming in due course, we understand that as parents and carers you would welcome some clarification over what to expect in the coming weeks. Please note that this information is subject to change and we will keep you informed as and when new information becomes available.

This letter will outline, in as much detail as we are currently able to give, what the first two weeks of term will look like. Based on the government guidance issued so far, we can confirm: -

WEEK 1: Monday 4th January will now be an INSET Day and school will be closed to all students. We realise this is shorter notice than we would normally give for an INSET Day, but in line with the government guidance, we believe this is necessary if we are to prepare for the proposed testing in schools.

During the rest of the week 5th - 8th January all students will be taught online /remotely.

Vulnerable and Critical Worker children will be eligible to be in school every day this week (Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th). **A form will be emailed to you shortly for you to indicate if you will be eligible to access this provision. This form needs to be completed by 5pm on Sunday 3rd January.**

Any students, regardless of their year group, **who have an exam scheduled for the first week**, should come in for the start of the school day on the day of the exam. They will remain in school until the end of the school day.

WEEK 2: Monday 11th – 15th January

All Year 11 and Year 13 students will be in school every day this week. We are hoping that they will be tested twice for Covid during this time. Consent forms must have been completed and returned for testing to take place.

Students in Years 7 to 10, and Year 12, will be at home during this week, and will continue to access their work remotely.

Vulnerable and Critical Worker children will continue to be eligible to be in school every day that week.

General Information

- On Tuesday 5th January, teachers will begin streaming lessons live on Teams, for those working at home. Students will follow their normal (Covid) timetable. This means:

8:55 – 9:55 Lesson 1

10:10 – 12:10 Lesson 2 and 3

12:55 – 14:55 Lesson 4 and 5

- There may be occasions where teachers are unable to stream live lessons and if this is the case, students will be informed on the Team channel and given further instructions. It is vital students attend online lessons and normal attendance and conduct procedures will be followed.
- School start and finish times, uniform, routines, etc. will all be as normal for those students in school.
- School buses will be running as normal from the 5th January and a suitable arrangement will be put in place for those students working from home, who are eligible for Free School Meals. Details will follow regarding this.

Our expectation is that all students will be back in school for face-to-face teaching from Monday January 18th, unless they are self-isolating due to Covid related regulations.

Further guidance will be issued by the government to schools, addressing how the testing of students will be rolled out. This roll out is expected to happen during the first weeks of term and will initially test Year 11 and Year 13 students. Once we have more information, we will share it with you. However, in the meantime can you please complete the form being emailed to you if you consent to your child being tested (an information sheet is attached).

I appreciate this is very new to us all, please can you share the testing information with your child as this might allay any questions or concerns that they might have. We are working hard to put as much of this in place as we possibly can, however in the event of significant infection numbers we may well still need to ask your child to self-isolate in line with current Covid regulations should they be in contact with a positive case. In addition, the usual rules in relation to positive tests and self-isolation will still apply. The school should continue to be informed in the usual way if your child tests positive by contacting the main office on 01833 638 166 or via email at office@teesdaleschool.co.uk

Thank you once again for your support during this time. I realise that this is a lot of information to take in all-in-one go. Please be assured that we will continue to update you as regularly as necessary.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy New year.

Yours faithfully,

Dan Pilling

Head of School

Attachments:

1. Testing Information Sheet.

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1



YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2

YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

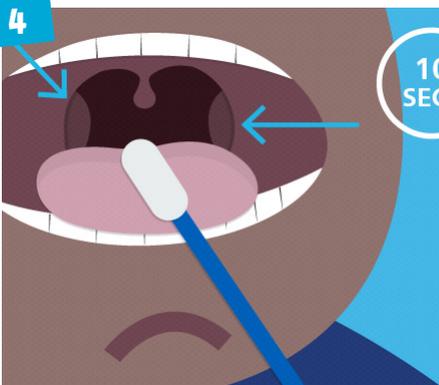


3



BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4



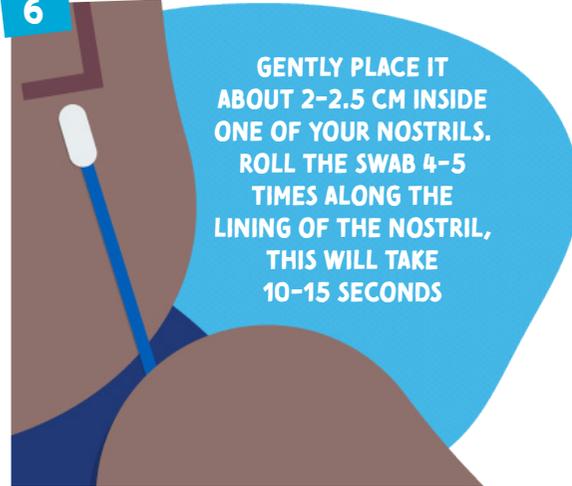
OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

5



REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6



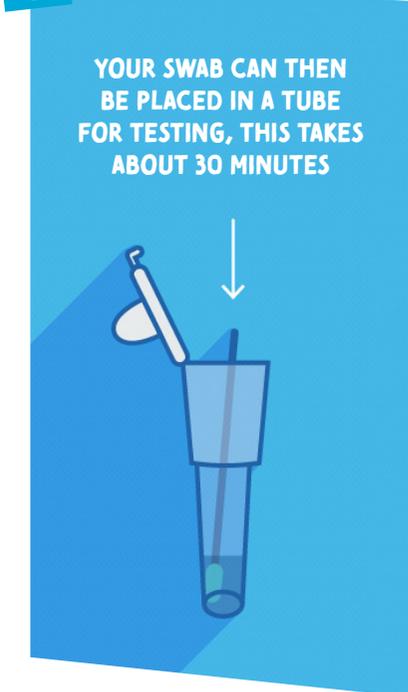
GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7



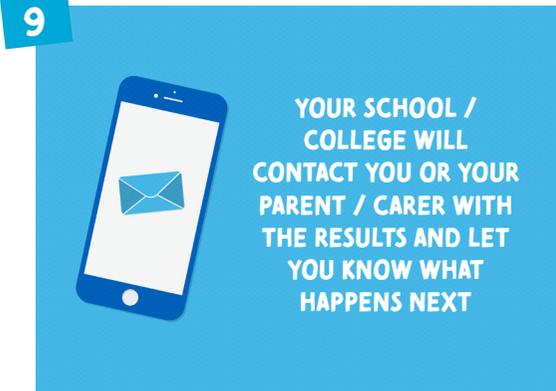
AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8



YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9



YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT