

## Covid Update May 28

### COVID-19 testing over half-term

As lockdown eases, taking a rapid COVID-19 test twice a week, even if you do not have symptoms, will help us stay ahead of the spread of the virus, particularly as new strains appear. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 have no symptoms and are spreading the virus without knowing. This includes those who have had their vaccine.

We want to thank you for your continued support in testing. Over 40 million tests with staff and students have now been conducted as part of the education testing programme.

Testing remains voluntary but strongly encouraged. We ask that students continue to test twice a week over half-term using the LFD tests provided by School and report their tests to the NHS and **please test before your return to School at the end of half term**. You should report this result both to the NHS and to School.

The result of a rapid test could be positive, negative or even void. But whatever it is, it should be reported straight away, every time. Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

Reporting results to the NHS is easy. Go to [report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

Reminder:

The most common symptoms of Covid are:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

We are learning that the B.1.617 (Indian) variant may be more transmissible. After half term, we will continue with our covid protocols, including elevated hygiene and cleaning to minimize the risk of transmission by reinforcing regular hand washing, social distancing, minimizing mixing of year groups and good ventilation. Staggered lunchtimes will continue until the end of term and students should continue to come in sports kit when they have a sporting activity or lesson.