



4 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware we have begun planning to offer COVID-19 testing to staff and students at Backwell School.

A large logistical part of this process includes gathering permission from parents which is why I am emailing you all today.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, [please click here to complete our online consent form](#) – if you have more than one child at Backwell School, you will need to complete a form for each child.

**The deadline for submission of this form is 10.00 am on Friday 8 January** so that we can process this data as part of our planning for testing.

Attached to this email is a leaflet for parents, issued by the government on the testing plans and processes.

Those taking a COVID-19 lateral flow test will be supported by staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff will oversee the swab process, but the child will administer the swab directly themselves.

Testing will be offered free of charge. Initially, as a school we will focus on mass testing (which comprises of two tests per child) to identify asymptomatic students. We will then move to offer close-contact testing; therefore self-isolation will still be required until this is up and running.

### **What if a pupil tests positive?**

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils testing positive will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or alternatively parents may go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, parents should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time whilst waiting for the PCR result (via text / email) pupils will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result your child will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

Pupils will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear anything you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at Backwell School is for people with **no symptoms**. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. **Please do not come into school seeking a test.**

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions: [mailbox@backwellschool.net](mailto:mailbox@backwellschool.net).

Please [click here](#) to read the privacy notice connected to this data collection.

We will issue more detailed information on both the mass testing and close-contact testing process to all parents and students in due course.

A reminder that we are looking for support to administer this testing across the Trust – full details can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is Wednesday 6 January 2020.

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher

# 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

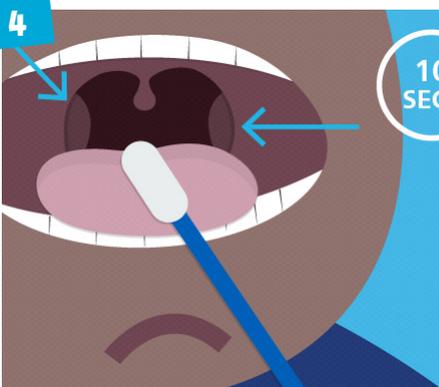


3



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

4



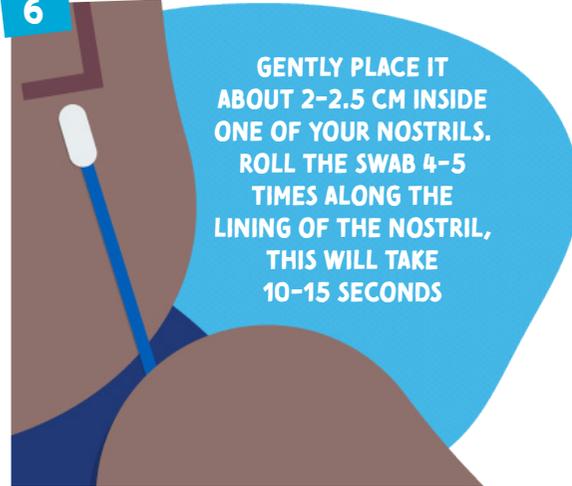
OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

5



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

6



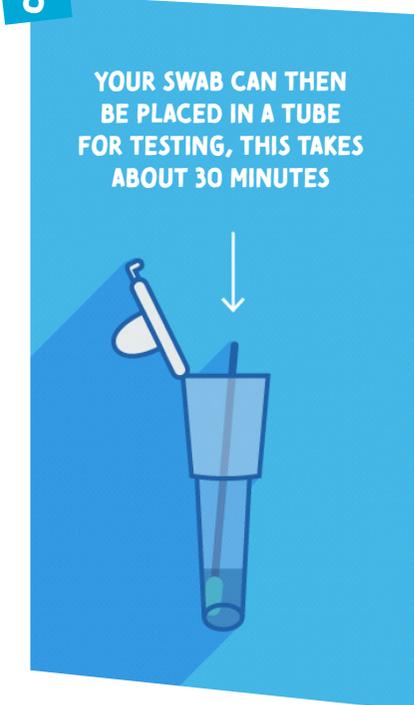
GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7



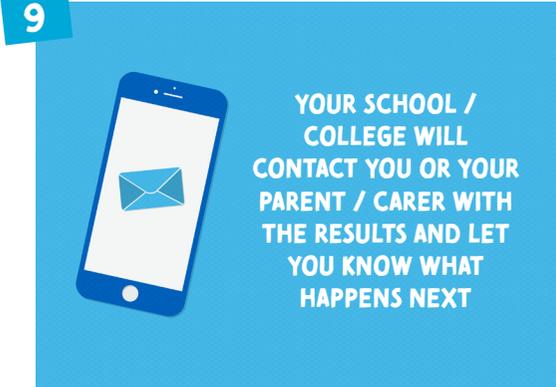
AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

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