



23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are taking part in a pilot programme to offer COVID-19 testing to children **who are attending school** and develop some of the wider symptoms of COVID-19.

We know there are sometimes wider symptoms associated with COVID-19 and in children these symptoms can present instead of or in advance of the classic symptoms.

THE WIDER SYMPTOMS IN THIS PILOT ARE	
Loss of Appetite	Sore Throat
Extreme Tiredness	Nausea
Headaches	*Diarrhoea (must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to school)
Joint Pain or Muscle Ache	**Vomiting (must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to school)

Therefore, we are recommending:

- That your child gets a COVID-19 PCR test if they display any of the less common/wider symptoms which are new to them (see table above).
- If any of these wider symptoms are normal for your child as a result of other conditions (e.g. allergies, hayfever, migraine etc) then we suggest your child is not tested.
- Children should not be tested regularly if symptoms last a few days or a week, testing should only be at the onset of the new symptom(s).

This recommendation and pilot may change or stop when all children return to school.

Although this is not national guidance, there is testing capacity in the Worcestershire system for this pilot.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Wills
Headteacher

Please note the following information from the Worcestershire Public Health Team:

- This testing is optional
- Children do not need to have a negative test result to access school.
- Children should stay at home and attend virtual education whilst they await their test results.
- Household members do not need to self-isolate while waiting for the test result unless any one of the main COVID-19 symptoms develop.
- If the test result is positive your child and household must self-isolate for 10 days from their symptom onset date.
- If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, they should not get tested if they have wider symptoms. However, if they display any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms they must self-isolate and arrange a new PCR test.
- If anyone in the household develops one of the main COVID-19 symptoms, household members will need to start self-isolation and the symptomatic person must arrange a test.
- For children who are self-isolating as a close contact of a positive case and develop any wider symptoms, a PCR test is recommended.
- If your child is currently self-isolating as a close contact and the PCR test result for wider symptoms is negative, they must continue their 10-day isolation period.
- If your child has diarrhoea* and or vomiting** they must not return to school until clear of symptoms for 48 hours.
- If the test result for wider symptoms is negative but your child then develops a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change of taste or sense of smell they (and your household) must self-isolate and another test must be arranged for your child.

Details about how to access a test can be found on the following page.

Upton upon Severn C of E Primary School COVID-19 Testing Pilot Scheme

A test can be booked online here <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen> and then selecting the options indicated when reaching the illustrated screens shown below.

Is the person who needs a test an essential worker?

Essential workers include NHS staff, teachers and transport staff. Check the [full list of essential workers on GOV.UK](#).

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms?

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- new, continuous cough
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

- Yes, at least one of these symptoms
- No, none of these symptoms

Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project?

For example, they:

- are taking part in community testing
- have been invited to take part in the Contact Testing Study
- were told to get a test by the COVID Symptom Study app (by ZOE)

- Yes
- No

Why are you asking for a test?

- I've been told to get another coronavirus test
- I'm ordering for someone I live with who has coronavirus symptoms
- My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms
- I'm part of the National Tactical Response Group (NTRG), or someone I live with is
- None of the above