

1st March 2021

Dear Parent,

Re: Covid-19 Testing (Prior to Reopening)

Further to my letter dated 25th February, I wish to update you regarding the position concerning testing:

- From 23rd February, all staff have been offered twice-weekly home [Lateral Flow Device](#) tests.
- On 25th February, I sent a letter recommending that **all pupils have at least one Covid-19 test prior to returning on Monday 8th March** and enclosed details of local community test centres, which I have re-enclosed in this letter. If there are issues regarding access to a local test centre, please e-mail Reopening@eastwood.southend.sch.uk and the Academy will endeavour to arrange a test on site.
- Some parents have enquired about the position regarding testing where their child has previously contracted Covid-19. Government guidance states that *'individuals are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms'*.
- Once pupils have returned to school, the Government has recommended further testing, although I will communicate these arrangements in a separate letter this week.

By way of general reassurance, I wish to highlight the following:

- Covid-19 cases locally continue to decrease to levels comparable to September. As of 26th February, for the area surrounding the Academy, this was 74 per 100, 000 i.e. less than one person per thousand people. At its peak in December, local case levels were more than 1,500 per 100, 000.



- Nationally, over 20 million people have been vaccinated, including the four most vulnerable groups. Concerns regarding an uptick in community transmission as a result of children and staff returning to school, should be ameliorated, as it is expected that any increase in transmission should not necessarily result in a substantive increase in Covid-19 related hospitalisations and deaths.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. N. Houchen
Principal



Believe, Succeed, Together

Local Test Centres

University Square, Southend-on-Sea (entrance opposite Sainsbury's)

You must have no symptoms to attend this site

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 7am to 2.30pm..

Parking: town centre pay and display parking..

Accessibility: accessible to all..

Type of test: LFD rapid testing site for people with no symptoms

You can [book an appointment on our website](#) or walk in without an appointment and the team will slot you in

If you're not able to book online, you can call the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Covid Response helpline on 01702 212497. This line is open 9am to 5pm weekdays, 10am to 2pm weekends

St Aidan's Church

You must have no symptoms to attend this site

Address: The Fairway, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4QW

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 7am to 5:30pm

Parking: there is onsite parking in St.Aidan's church car park

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: LFD rapid testing site for people with no symptoms.

You can [book your appointment on our website](#) or walk in without an appointment and the team will slot you in

If you're not able to book online, you can call the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Covid Response helpline on 01702 212497. This line is open 9am to 5pm weekdays, 10am to 2pm weekends

Shoebury Youth Centre

You must have no symptoms to attend this site

Address: Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9NS

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 8am to 6:30pm

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: LFD rapid testing site for people with no symptoms

You can [book your appointment on our website](#) or walk in without an appointment and the team will slot you in

If you're not able to book online, you can call the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Covid Response helpline on 01702 212497. This line is open 9am to 5pm weekdays, 10am to 2pm weekends



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Hamlet Court Road

Postcode: SS0 7DD

Standard opening times: 9am to 3pm, 7 days a week

Info: This site is open to drive-through and walk-up appointments

Parking: available

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: PCR testing site for people with or without symptoms

Short Street

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 8am to 8pm

Parking: Town centre parking

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: PCR testing site for people with or without symptoms.

You can [book a test on the .gov.uk website](#) or call 119. If you don't have symptoms, please select "no" to "do you have symptoms" and then select "my local authority has asked me to have a test"

Southend Airport

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 9am to 3pm

Parking: available

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: PCR testing site for people with or without symptoms. The tests are free.

You can [book a test on the .gov.uk website](#) or call 119. If you don't have symptoms, please select "no" to "do you have symptoms" and then select "my local authority has asked me to have a test"

Elm Road

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 8am to 8pm

Parking: parking available on site and on surrounding streets

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: PCR testing site for people with or without symptoms. The tests are free.

You can [book a test on the .gov.uk website](#) or call 119. If you don't have symptoms, please select "no" to "do you have symptoms" and then select "my local authority has asked me to have a test"



Believe, Succeed, Together

Information on all Test Centres

All test sites in Southend are viewable on this [map](#).

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR Test)

The PCR test looks for evidence that the virus is currently in your body, by looking for the presence of its RNA in a swab sample from your nose/throat.

The test needs to go to a laboratory for processing and it usually takes between 12 and 24 hours to return a result.

Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD Test)

[Lateral Flow Devices](#) are a rapid test for Covid-19 that gives a result in about 30 minutes. You can do the test yourself under the supervision of a trained member of staff. The test is a small swab brushed against your tonsils and inside one nostril. The swab is put into a device, which works a bit like a pregnancy-test kit.