

25th February 2021

Dear Parent,

Re: Covid-19 Testing (Prior to Reopening)

On 23rd February, the Government issued [Operational Guidance](#) to schools recommending that **all pupils have a Covid-19 test prior to returning on Monday 8th March.**

The primary purpose of the Covid-19 test is to identify **asymptomatic** individuals (i.e. those who are infectious but do not have any symptoms), who subsequently have to self-isolate, thereby reducing transmission in school and the need for other individuals ('contacts') to self-isolate.

I wish to be clear, that a Covid-19 test is not mandatory and nor is it a precondition to pupils returning to school on 8th March.

To assist in arranging a test for your child, enclosed within this letter are details of test centres locally. I would advise that you make arrangements for **at least one test next week.** The first three test centres in the list involve [Lateral Flow Devices](#) i.e. your child will receive a test result in 30 minutes. I believe there will be additional test centres added in the forthcoming days; as and when these are known, I will inform you.

The Academy has a small Asymptomatic Test Unit (ATU) on site. 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.

In the event that your child records a **positive** Covid-19 test result, please inform the Academy via the e-mail address notify@eastwood.southend.sch.uk and ensure that they, and other household members, self-isolate for 10 days in accordance with the [NHS Self-Isolation Guidance](#).

Once pupils have returned to school, the Government has recommended further testing, although I will communicate these arrangements in a separate letter.

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.