



## THE LONDON NAUTICAL SCHOOL

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Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all experienced an enjoyable Easter break and we are now very much looking forward to welcoming all students back to school. Please be reminded that **Monday 19th April 2021 is an INSET day, therefore students will return to school on Tuesday 20th April 2021.**

Over the course of the last week you will have seen that Lambeth, Wandsworth and some areas in Barnet and Southwark have undertaken 'surge testing' following the detection of the Covid-19 variant first identified in South Africa. This letter includes important information outlining how Lambeth is planning to coordinate this process through the distribution of PCR test kits to all secondary school aged children. Your child will receive their PCR test kit on **Tuesday 20th April 2021, the test should be completed that evening and returned to school on Wednesday 21st April 2021.**

### Information directly from Lambeth Council: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Over the past month we have seen a steady drop in the number of Covid-19 cases locally. Thank you for all the work that you have been doing to keep our school and community safe. You may be aware that Lambeth council is asking all those aged over 11 years who live, work or attend school or colleges in Lambeth to take a Covid-19 PCR test as soon as possible. This is to help track any possible infections after some cases of the Covid-19 variant first identified in South Africa were detected in south London. There is currently no evidence to suggest this variant causes more severe illness than others.

Everyone over the age of 11 who lives or works or attends school in Lambeth should take a Covid-19 PCR test, regardless of whether they have Covid-19 symptoms or not. Anyone who has been vaccinated should still get tested.

### What do you need to do?

- Your child will be provided with a PCR swab kit for themselves by the school.
- Your child should carry out the test at home, with your support where needed, then you must register the test online (see below). Your child must return it to the school the **following day**. The test should be undertaken on **Tuesday 20th April 2021.**
- It is very important that you return the completed test swabs **directly to the school** the day after you undertake the test, and **do not** post swabs in a post box.
- Please go to the website link <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit> to register

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your test

- Any adults in your household who live or work in Lambeth should also take a PCR test. You can book these for home delivery, visit a local test site to take a test or pick up home kits. Find out more at: [lambeth.gov.uk/enhancedtesting](http://lambeth.gov.uk/enhancedtesting).
- **Results of these tests will be shared with you directly from the NHS on your mobile or email. If you or your child tests positive you must report it to your school.**
- You will only have to isolate if your test result is positive. You can continue, as a family, to do regular LFD home testing. LFD and PCR tests can be carried out on the same day if convenient.

Even if you have regular LFD (rapid) testing you will still need to undertake a PCR test, as a PCR is a lab test, which is required to identify the variant.

### **What happens next?**

Everyone should continue to follow the current rules in the usual way, but your child should also now take a PCR test, whether or not they have symptoms.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19, the test will be checked to find out whether they have the variant first identified in South Africa.

**If you or your child has Covid-19 symptoms** (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your taste or smell), **has tested positive for Covid-19, or has been in contact with someone who has, they and the rest of your household must self-isolate.** If anyone in your household does need to self-isolate, support is available. If you are a resident of Lambeth, the Stay Home Safely support service can provide the practical and emotional help you need. To find out more call 0800 054 1215 or visit [lambeth.gov.uk/self-isolate-help](http://lambeth.gov.uk/self-isolate-help).

Lambeth Council will be providing updates and information related to the enhanced testing on their website: [lambeth.gov.uk/enhancedtesting](http://lambeth.gov.uk/enhancedtesting)

Please be assured we are following the national guidance to reduce the spread of infection in the school and will act on further advice from Lambeth or Public Health England as required.

I appreciate that there is a significant amount of information contained within this letter. If you have any questions please email [admin@lns.org.uk](mailto:admin@lns.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Michael Schofield

Headteacher

## FAQs

### **How does this affect regular LFD testing?**

This PCR testing is in addition to routine twice-weekly LFD testing.

LFD tests do not enable sequencing of the virus to identify which variant is present. LFD and PCR tests can be taken on the same day if convenient.

### **Do parents need to consent to testing?**

The PCR tests are to be carried out at home. Staff, parents and students do not need to give written consent to take part. Tests must be registered online (<https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit>) and the privacy notice for testing is also provided here.

### **Why do tests need to be registered?**

All tests will need to be registered online to enable the result to be communicated to the individual. A separate instruction leaflet is included for this as it differs slightly to the information in the test leaflet. Tests must **not** be returned by post. The exception to this is if someone is self isolating and has symptoms in which case tests can be sent through priority post boxes which can be looked up on the gov.uk website.

### **Do household members of those who attend a Lambeth school also need to be tested?**

Household members over 11 years who do not attend a Lambeth school but who live in Lambeth should get tested in the community (details at [lambeth.gov.uk/enhancedtesting](https://lambeth.gov.uk/enhancedtesting))

If you do not live or work in Lambeth or Wandsworth, you do not need to take part in this asymptomatic PCR enhanced testing.

If a staff member or student tests positive for Covid-19 then we will offer PCR tests to the other members of their household even if they live outside of Lambeth.

### **Should staff or students test within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test?**

Anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 within the previous 90 days does not need to be re-tested as part of this enhanced testing programme unless they develop new symptoms of Covid-19. If they *choose* to be tested, they can take a test – if this returns a positive test result they will need to self-isolate.

### **Do people who have been vaccinated need to be tested?**

Yes. Even if you have had 2 doses of the vaccine we still want people to be tested. This will help us understand how effective the vaccines are against new and emerging variants.