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Headteacher: Mrs M. Pye B.A. (Hons) M.A. Ed



21/5/2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **COVID-19 – ‘Indian variant’**

You may have heard in the news of a new variant of concern that was first identified in India. A number of cases of the variant have been found in Ealing and other areas in London and the north west of England. There are concerns that this variant is more easily transmitted.

Ealing Council is working to identify if there has been any spread of COVID-19 in people who might not be displaying symptoms, and is asking for **all staff and pupils to take a COVID-19 PCR test. Testing will be arranged by the school.**

Please note that there is currently no concern about Covid-19 at Greenford High School specifically; this testing is just part of a co-ordinated response between Ealing Council and Southall schools.

### **Arrangements for Testing**

- Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will get a test at our test centre, in school, week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021, after half term. You must return your consent for this test as soon as possible on this [online form](#).
- Years 11 and 13 will be issued with home tests to complete next week. **Please note the tests need to be returned to school within 24 hours of being taken.** All home tests must be returned to school by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021. You must return your consent for this test as soon as possible on this [online form](#). **Please read the guidance about how to register your home test at the bottom of this letter.**

If your child has recently had Covid-19, he/she is likely to incorrectly test positive again with this test. **Therefore, if your child has had a positive test for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, he/she should not take the test and you should let the school know.**

I understand that you might be concerned about this variant. It is very important that everyone takes part in this voluntary PCR testing to stop any onward spread. We would also strongly encourage anyone eligible for a vaccination to get your jabs to protect yourself, family and

friends even if you have had Covid-19, as the vaccine will provide robust protection against any future infection. <https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine>

Please also remember that you and your household only must self-isolate if you test positive or if you have Covid-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of sense of smell or taste). If anyone in your household needs support (financial, food or medicine) to self-isolate for 10 days, support is available. If you are a resident of Ealing, support is available by ringing the Ealing Together helpline on 020 8825 7170 or find out about self-isolation payments at <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Please be assured we are following the national guidance about reducing the spread of infection in the school and will act on further advice from Ealing Council and Public Health England as required.

Information in other languages can be found on the NHS website at <https://www.covid19.nhs.uk/translations.html>

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Best Wishes,



Mrs M Pye  
Headteacher

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### **HOME TESTING GUIDANCE – ONLY APPLICABLE TO YEARS 11 AND 13**

Please note the instructions below to register the kit on your own at home.

This is a home testing kit so the instructions are written for people who have been sent the test by post and expect it to be returned by post. **YOU WILL NOT NEED TO POST YOUR TEST KIT.** Please return the kit to the school.

**Please go to <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit> to register your test.**

As the test is not to be posted, you should skip two parts of the online form:

When asked "Do you know how you'll return your test kit?" - select "YES" – **remember, your test needs to be taken to the school. You should not post it.**

You will be asked for an Order ID. You need to click the link at the bottom of the page that says: 'register your kit a different way.'

You will need to input your test bar code number. This is found on your guidance booklet or on the sample bag or, if you have a smart phone, you may scan your test kit bar code.

**IMPORTANT** - Please keep a record or copy of your test barcode number.

You will be asked for a "Royal Mail bar code". You need to click "I do not know my Royal Mail barcode" as this is not needed as your test is being returned via the school.

After you have completed the test and registered it, please package it up and take it back to the school. **REMEMBER, DO NOT POST YOUR TEST KIT.**

**Results of the test will be communicated to you directly by the NHS to your mobile or email.**

**YouTube links with guidance on swabbing for adults and children:**

The link for adults is - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=8lo6g-TYZ-c&feature=youtu.be>

The link for children is -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Xaw8DsF2lgc&feature=youtu.be>