

## Positive Spin Teacher Bulletin Issued Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

For those that have missed it, here is a government information update on new testing arrangements to keep schools open in January. Teachers will be pleased to learn that:

***There is no expectation that school and college staff will need to work on this over the Christmas break. Existing staff meetings or inset days can be used for training as appropriate for each individual setting.***

Although there is no advice to school leaders on how all this is to be put in place without the extensive work necessary to set it up!

At the foot of the bulletin is a link to advice from the Principal of Wye School in Ashford on the pilot scheme, the second smallest secondary school in Kent.

Teaching 

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# Teacher Bulletin

**Coronavirus**

**Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline**

**0800 046 8687**

8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

**Coronavirus testing for schools and colleges from January**

Today we have announced that teachers and students will have access to rapid testing to help keep schools and colleges open throughout the spring term.

From January, starting with secondary schools and including all special schools and alternative provision, the education workforce will be eligible for weekly on the spot tests. This will help identify asymptomatic cases – which make up a third of all cases – limiting the spread of the virus. This will be backed up by daily testing for staff who have been in close contact with a positive case therefore eliminating the need for self-isolation and allowing them to continue to come into school or college.

Students will be eligible for daily testing if they have been in close contact with a positive case.

## Key information

You can read the [press notice](#) and the [guidance](#) on GOV.UK.

Below is a summary of the key details of the announcement:

- Weekly rapid tests will be available to all secondary school and college staff from January.
- Staff and students who are close contacts of cases will be eligible for daily testing, preventing the need for immediate self-isolation. Only if a daily test returns a positive result will the staff member need to isolate.
- Test kits will begin arriving at secondary schools and colleges for the first phase of rollout to staff from the first week of January.

**There is no expectation that school and college staff will need to work on this over the Christmas break.** Existing staff meetings or inset days can be used for training as appropriate for each individual setting.

We have published a [Q&A](#) to answer some of your questions.

## **What other schools have said**

Rapid testing builds on the success of testing pilots in schools and colleges over the past few months.

Wye School in Kent took part in the COVID-19 testing pilot. Their Principal, Luke Magee, answers questions for senior leaders on the [DfE Teaching Blog](#).