

Principal: Simon Warburton



# ELY COLLEGE

Downham Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2SH

t: 01353 667763

e: [office@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:office@elycollege.co.uk)

w: [www.elycollege.com](http://www.elycollege.com)

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Update to testing and COVID mitigations for September 2021

This is an update to the letter that was sent home on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Considering the increasing infection rate within East Cambridgeshire we have decided to alter our plans for testing and the wearing of face coverings for specific events within college. In addition to the alterations of our risk assessment within college, we are asking for your support and engagement with the home lateral flow tests in advance of the return of students to college. Without the resumption of home testing prior to the start of term, it is likely that we will encounter several positive tests which will result in students needing to isolate further into the term.

We would ask students in Years 8 to 13 to resume the twice weekly home testing on a Wednesday and Sunday evening as soon as possible this week. If you currently do not have enough LFT (Lateral Flow Tests) kits at home, then you can obtain them from the college reception desk on Thursday or Friday throughout the day. We have been issued with new kits that are nasal swab only. If you do pick up a kit from college, could we ask you to read the instructions carefully. Alternatively, you can pick up kits from the following locations:

Tesco Superstore CB7 4DJ

Lloyds Pharmacy – Sainsbury's CB7 4AS

Advanced Pharma Ltd CB7 4EY

Boots CB7 4PB

You can find other pick up locations throughout the Ely area by visiting the NHS Collection Website:

<https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Once you have completed an LFT could you please register the result on Test Register by clicking on: <https://testregister.co.uk/login> and logging your result as you did previously. If we can get as many students as possible completing two LFT tests prior to coming into college next week then we can be more confident that there is less chance of an infection moving through the college before our testing routine picks it up.

Students in our new Year 7 will not be able to use Test Register yet, so we will move their testing slot to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. All other testing slots will remain as published in my letter of 26<sup>th</sup> August.

<https://www.elycollege.com/attachments/download.asp?file=3216&type=pdf>

In the interests of supporting a quick resumption of effective routines for testing at home we would ask that students continue to complete the twice weekly home tests whilst in-college testing is being carried out.



## **Testing Volunteers**

Supporting the completion of over 2,500 LFT tests within a brief period is challenging. We have been fortunate to rely on the support and goodwill of several volunteers previously and we would be incredibly grateful if any parent is able to offer some of their time over the first two weeks of term to help support our testing programme. If this is something you would like to explore then please contact Mrs Price on: [cprice@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:cprice@elycollege.co.uk)

## **Assemblies**

In addition to the quick resumption of testing we will ask all students to wear face coverings in assemblies for the duration of September. This will provide an extra layer of prevention to halt the potential of an infection moving through a House and year groups.

## **Prevention**

There is little doubt that the best way to ensure the health and safety of all the college community is to be extra vigilant to the COVID symptoms and make sure that anyone who displays; an elevated temperature, a continuous cough, or a loss or change in taste or smell, obtains a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test even if the LFT comes back as negative. We will also rigorously promote awareness of “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it” and the maintenance of hand sanitizing gel stations as well as ensuring that rooms are well ventilated.

I hope that the combination of these steps listed above means that we can look forward to a term of minimal disruption and we can look forward to the many educational and social benefits that the easing of COVID restrictions in schools and colleges presents.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton  
Principal